STARS STRIPES.



Racing Stripes: Could Stewart be a few big wins from retirement?

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age 6

Volume 63. No. 312

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2005

EO

AAFES to hike gas prices up 10 cents

Germany, England, Netherlands will see increase March 1

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Bush, Putin to work on limiting nations with nukes

Leaders agree to disagree on Russian democracy

Page 11

President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands after their news conference in Bratislava, Thursday.

STARS STRIPES. COMING



Looking naughty but acting nice



Scene on Sunday

Keanu creates enigmatic character

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Michael Jackson trial: The jury in Michael Jackson's child molestation trial includes several fans of his music, four parents of young children, a woman whose grandson was convicted of a sexual offense, and a man who visited Jackson's Neverland ranch as a child.

The four men and eight women seated Wednesday in Santa Maria, Calif., were primarily white and Hispanic and did not appear to include any of the half-dozen blacks who were in the pool of more than 240 pros-

Race could be a factor because public opinion polls show blacks are less inclined to believe the charges against Jackson, who is black

Honduran bus attack suspect: The reputed leader of a violent Honduran gang was using an alias, but the tattoos on his body gave him away.

Further checking revealed the man arrested in Texas on Feb. 10 was Ever Anibal Rivera Paz, known as "El Culiche" — The Tapeworm.

Rivera Paz had escaped Jan. 23 from a Honduran prison where he was being held on charges of masterminding an armed attack on a bus that killed 28 people, including six children, in December.

Fight over brain-damaged woman: The parents of Terri Schiavo won another reprieve in their fight to keep the brain-damaged woman alive after a Florida judge extended an emergency stay keeping her feeding tube in place. The stay had been set to expire Wednes-

The stay had been set to expire Wednesday afternoon, but Pinellas Circuit Judge George Greer extended it until 5 p.m. Friday.

A lawyer for the parents, Robert and Mary Schindler, had asked the judge to block the removal of Schiavo's feeding tube so the family can have more time to determine if she has greater mental capabilities than previously believed.

The Schindlers also want more time to try to remove Schiavo's husband as legal guardian.

Utah school threat: A student charged with plotting to bomb an eastern Utah high school last year entered a plea to a misde-

meanor count of making a terroristic threat. The Alford plea Wednesday by Steven A. Kunzler, 18, means he did not admit guilt but agrees the state has enough evidence to convict him. He also pleaded guilty to attempted burglary.

Bird flu vaccine: The federal government is getting ready to test a bird flu vaccine and stockpiling both vaccine and antiviral drugs as the threat grows that a deadly strain of avian influenza will begin spreading from Asia

Two million doses of vaccine are being stored in bulk form for possible emergency



Clinton tour of Asia: Former President Bill Clinton signs his autohiography for South Korean fana during a party Thursday colherating the publication of his autohiography "My Life" in Seoul. At a dimner hosted by the publisher of the Korean edition of the best-selling memoir, Clinton expressed optimism Thursday that an international standfor over North Korea's nuclear weapons programs can be resolved peacefully. "I hope that China and all friends of the Korean people will make it succeed." The said, according to a nool report.

use and to test whether it maintains its potency, officials said Wednesday. to be a conversation between Russian secret service officials discussing the alleged role

World

Milosevic tribunal: Judges at the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague warned former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Thursday not to dwell on the

1999 NATO bombing at his war crimes trial.

Milosevic is presenting his defense against 66 charges, including genocide, at the lengthy trial that began in 2002 and will likely conclude in 2006.

Milosevic argues his troops were engaged in a legitimate fight against rebels and terrorists, and that it was the NATO bombing that caused most civilian deaths and drow more than I million refugees from the region—not Serb troops as alleged in his indictment.

Afghan plane crash: The first bodies retrieved from a crashed Afghan airliner were returned to their relatives on Thursday, three weeks after the plane smashed into a mountain during a snowstorm. An official said the bodies of an American and a Russian have been identified.

Bad weather has slowed recovery efforts on the freezing peak near the Afghan capital where the plane hit Feb. 3, killing all 108 people on board.

Yuschenko poisoning: Prosecutors in that may be a may be a may be a may be a may be the d more light on the dioxin poisoning of Ukraine President Viktor Yushchenko, an official said Wednesday. Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun

Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun has acquired audiotapes of what appeared

to be a conversation between Russian secret service officials discussing the alleged role of Moscow political analyst Gleb Pavlovsky in Yushchenko's poisoning, said Piskun's spokesman, Vyacheslav Astapov.

In the recordings, people described as Russian agents appeared to be discussing Pavlovsky's role in a plot aimed at damaging Yushchenko's ratings by ruining his good looks with toxic chemicals.

Afghan border clashes: Gunbattles near Afghanistan's insurgent-haunted border with Pakistan left six suspected Taliban militants dead and five government soldiers wounded, Afghan police said.

The soldiers were hurt when guerrillas opened fire on their vehicle near Ali Khel, a town in Khost province 90 miles south of Kabul, police chief Mohammed Ayub told

The Associated Press. Extra troops sent to aid their comrades from a government-aligned regional militia tracked the retreating attackers to a nearby mountain where they engaged them again, killing six rebels, Ayub said. Five assault rifles and a rocket-launcher were seized, he said.

Palestinian government reform: The Palestinian parliament on Thursday approved a 24-member Cabinet dominated by professional appointees, including nearly half with doctoral degrees, in a major move toward long-promised government reform.

The 54-12 vote, with four abstentions, ended days of wrangling between rebellious legislators and Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, who initially sought to reappoint political cronies of the late Yasser Arafat.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Clarification

The caption on a photo in Sunday's editions of a car giveaway in Naples, Italy, did not include the competition's sponsors.

It was a USO promotion supported by Volvo, the Defense Commissary Agency and C. Lloyd Johnson, which represents manufacturers of consumer products to the military.

BIG WITH WINTER CASH!





"The classes is formed Prevention Flow, several as of \$10,000 and opinion of the confidence of the con

Comics every

day in Stars

and Stripes



Rob Morton, a civilian contractor for General Dynamics, buys \$110 in gas coupons from Genia Priest on Thursday at an AAFES gas station at Lincoln Village. Gas prices will jump 10 cents a gallon in March.

AAFES hikes up gasoline prices

By Russ Rizzo Stars and Stripes

Department of Defense ID card holders in Germany and four other countries would be wise to stock up on gas coupons before Tuesday.

Gas prices are going up 10 cents a gallon for unleaded fuel in Germany, England, the Netherlands, Turkey and the Azores starting March 1, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service announced this week. Diesel prices

will jump almost 4 cents a gallon. That's exactly what Rob Mor-ton did Thursday upon hearing the news of the price increase.

Morton, a civilian contractor working in Darmstadt, Germany, planned to pay the \$28.42 for a full tank of super-unleaded gas in his Volvo station wagon and be on his way. But when he heard prices would rise next week, he bought coupons for 200 liters of as — about 53 gallons.

He pocketed \$5.30 in savings

AAFES adjusts gas prices monthly based on average prices drivers stateside pay. The nation al average for regular unleaded gas in the United States is \$1.897, AAA said Thursday.

Since drivers in the United States paid more to fill up their tanks last month, AAFES customers will pay more in March, according to AAFES.

The Navy controls gas prices for other European countries in-cluding Italy. No announcement has been made on whether those prices will increase, said Joe Giufpresident AAFES-Europe.

Starting Tuesday, AAFES cus-tomers buying the lowest grade of unleaded gas available will pay \$2.07 a gallon in Germany; \$2.10 a gallon in England; \$2.26 a gallon gailon in England, \$2.20 a gailon in the Netherlands; \$2.22 a gallon in Turkey; and \$2.21 a gallon in the Azores, according to AAFES. "It's still better than buying on the economy," Morton said.

He has a point: An Aral station in Darmstadt on Thursday charged 1.14 euros a liter — the

equivalent of \$5.78 a gallon — for regular unleaded gas.
That's nearly triple the \$1.97 a
gallon charged charged at AAFES

stations across the country.

E-mail Russ Rizzo at: rizzor@mail.estripes.osd.mil

DODDS teacher dies from long-term illness

A Department of Defense Dependents Schools teacher with 27 years of experience educating military children died at his family home in

of experience educating military children died at his family home in foshrowod, Wis, last week, DOIDS officials said Thursday, Darryl A. Levin, S3, died on Feb. 18 from complications of a long-term illness, said Bonnie Bowen-Haman, principal at Ramstein Intermediate School, where Levin taught third grade. DOIDS did not release other details about the circumstances of Levin death. Starting in 1978, but hought second through sixth grades at series of the complex of the

ries oi seven DOIDS Schools in Germany, Dowell-Hamain said.
"He was an exceptional teacher. He was adored by his students," she said. "That man was just everything you would want in a teacher." A memorial service for Levin is scheduled from 4-6 p.m. at the Northside Chapel on Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Petty officer sentenced for ID thefts

NORFOLK, Va. - A Navy petty officer from the Baltimore area who stole the identities of nearly two dozen servicemembers was sentenced to 47 months in the brig, reduced in rank and discharged from the Navy, a military spokesman said

Curtis Phillips, 28, was convicted of identity theft and three other charges relating to his enlistment and service during a general court-martial at the Navy Trial Service Office in Norfolk, Navy officials said Wednesday

From staff and wire reports

U.S. maintains nuke arsenal in Europe, group's report claims

EUCOM acknowledged

that

maintaining

a nuclear

arsenal is

part of NATO's

security

policy.

By RON JENSEN Stars and Strings

RAF MILDENHALL, England - More than 15 ears after the Berlin Wall crumbled and signaled the end of the Cold War, America maintains a nuclear arsenal in Europe of 480 weapons, a report from

an environmental group claims.

The report from the Natural Resources Defense Council, headquartered in New York City, released this month said there is no rationale

for their presence.

"It's having one foot stuck in the Cold War," said Hans Kristensen, author of "U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Eu-rope," during a telephone interview with Stars and Stripes.

The 100-page report said the U.S. nuclear arsenal in Europe is larger than the entire nuclear weapons stockpile of any nation except Rus-sia. The United States is the only country that deploys such weapons

outside its own boundaries.
The NRDC is a nonprofit organiza-The NRDC is a nonprofit organiza-tion created in 1970 and dedicated to protecting public health and the en-vironment. Its 1 million members are scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists.

Kristensen based his report on de-classified documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, military publications, commercial satellite imagery and other documents, according to a press release that accompanies the report. In the interview, he mentioned another source,

'People talk," he said. "People like to talk about what they do. The report said weapons are stored at eight bases

in six countries: Germany, England, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

Germany has more American nukes stored within its borders than any other country, Kristensen said in the report. The United States keeps as many as 150 nuclear arms at U.S. bases in Germany, he said. There are 110 weapons stored at RAF Lakenheath, England. Bases in Italy and Turkey each store 90 weapons. Bases in Belgium and the Netherlands each store 20 nuclear weapons, according to

Lt. Cmdr. Rick Haupt, a spokesman for the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, would not comment on the details cited in the report 'It's been a long-standing policy that the U.S. does

not comment on numbers and locations and capabilities of nuclear weapons," he said in a telephone interview with Stars and Stripes.

However, Haupt did acknowledge that maintaining a nuclear arsenal in Europe is part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's security poli-cy. The alliance, he said, believes the nuclear forces "provide an essential political and military link between European and North American members of the alliance." He said the number will continue to be the "minimum sufficient level to preserve peace and stability."

Kristensen said, "That's like say-

ing we have them here because we used to have them here. There have to be real tough reasons and urgent reasons for hav-

ing weapons like that anywhere The weapons are simple gravity bombs, Kristensen wrote in his report. In the interview, he said their

removal could be quick and simple. They're very easily moved," he said, "You just roll them up in a C-141 and fly them wherever you

want. You could move these things in an afternoon. Kristensen said the United States did remove thousands of nuclear weapons from Europe following the Soviet Union's collapse, but left 480 behind.

Home at last



PHOTOS BY KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTH/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Above: Overcome with excitement, Sierra Custer, 6, clings to her dad, Sgt. Wesley Custer, from the 601st Cavalry Support Detachment after his welcome home ceremony Wednesday. Ten soldiers from the detachment based out of Schweinfurt. Germany, returned from their year of duty in Iraq. Right: Carissa Joseph shows her 3-year-old daughter, Angelica, how to salute while waiting to greet Spc. Jonathan Joseph from the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry. About 100 soldiers representing almost all of the 2nd Brigade units returned from a year in Iraq on Wednesday and were welcomed at a brief ceremony at Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany.

USMC creates training unit

Force designed to aid foreign militaries in hot spots

BY JON R. ANDERSON Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Taking a page from the Army's special forces playbook, the Marine Corps is creating a unit designed to train local militaries in hot spots around the world, according to the commandant.

"We're now in the process of standing up a training unit within the Marine Corps," Gen. Mike Hagee told a gathering of reporters Thursday in Washington.

Tentatively dubbed the Foreign Military Training Unit, the new organization will come in the wake of several training missions the Corps has taken on in recent years in far-flung locations such as Niger, Chad and the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

"It's a capability that we've had, we've just never had a unit devoted to this," said Hagee. The FMTUs will be built in

devoted to this, said ragee.

The FMTUs will be built in partnership with the Army special forces and the joint U.S. Special Operations Training Command. Indeed, FATTUs will be treading into one of special force of core missions — gunfighters with intensive language training and culture savvy, capable of quickly inserting into a trouble spot to train up local forces.

"One of the things we don't have that the Green Berets have are all these language skills," said Hagee. "So, this is going to be a joint effort, especially initially when we're going to be looking for help from them on some of the language skills and some of the cultural understanding,"

Hagee said the unit will be manned with about 400 Marines and will probably be based on the East Coast. Plans call for the unit to be fully operational by the end of the year.

The FMTUs will fall under an-

other new Security Cooperation Education Training Center based at Quantico, Va., according to a Marine spokesman.



Gen. Mike Hagee

Meanwhile, Hagee said he was discussing with Special Operations Command chief Army Gen. Ryan Brown the creation of a Marine Corps special operations headquarters to fit under Brown's command.

Currently, the Marine Corps is the only service to not have a "component command" under SOCOM.

"I have to be honest," said Hagee. "I don't like headquarters upon headquarters upon headquarters. But sometimes there's a purpose for a headquarters, and that's what we're looking at right now."

Both initiatives come as the ser-

vice looks to add 3,000 Marines to active rolls this year. If approved by Congress, that would bring the Corps' strength to 178,000 troops. The manpower infusion will

allow the Marines also to create two new infantry battalions and add more Light Armored Vehicle units.

Hagee said the first infantry

battalion will be based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., under the II Marine Expeditionary Force by the end of the year.

Combat tour lengths

The commandant of the Marine Corps says he's open to changing the lengths of combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, but for now there are no plans to do so.

"We're obviously open to that, but all the indications that we have is that this is working really quite well for us—it's working well for the individual Marine and it's working well for the families," Gen. Mike Hagee said Thursday

Currently, battalions and squadrons rotate through the combat zones on seven-month tours while commanders and staffs at regimental headquarters and above deploy for yearlong tours.

The Army, on the other hand, rotates nearly all of its formations through for one-year tours.

Talking to families, said Hagee, "Tve actually asked them, what do you prefer? What they came back with, without hesitation is, 'Seven months. Even though we know they may go back again, that's what we prefer.'"

- Jon R. Anderson

He said it was still unclear where the second infantry battalion would go.

The biggest hurdle in standing the new units up, he said, was not finding enough Marines to fill the battalions but having adequate facilities for them to live and work.

Funds earmarked in the Bush administration's \$80 billion supplemental funding request now being considered by Congress will build new barracks and support buildings, he said. E-mail Jon R. Anderson at:

andersonj@stripes.osd.mil



Courtesy of the 7th Army Training Comman

Maj, Gen. Jason Kamiya, left, commander of the Southern European Task Force (Airborne), and SETAF's top enlisted soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. luniasolus Savosa, furl SETAF's colors Wednesday in Vicenza, Italy. Kamiya and the SETAF headquarters staff are heading to Atchanistan to begin what is exoceted to be a vearlong deolorment.

Ahead of deployment, SETAF furls its colors

BY KENT HARRIS Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy - The long

VICENZA, Italy — The long wait is almost over.

"it's hard to believe a year of training has come to an end and we are on the eve of deployment," Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, commander of the Southern European Task Force (Airborne), told hundreds of Americans and Italians gathered in the base theater Wednesday.

Kamiya and the SETAF headquarters staff are heading to Afghanistan to begin what is expected to be a yearlong deployment leading U.S. peacekeeping efforts. The SETAF colors were furled Wednesday in a ceremony held indoors because of the weather.

"I've been told that Afghanistan can be a very cold, snowy country this time of year," Kamiya said. "Vicenza is such a great host city that it recently snowed here twice to prepare us for Afghanistan."

And both Kamiya and SETAF's top enlisted soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savosa, say

Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savosa, say the troops are ready. "Absolutely," said Savosa, adding that SETAF and its major subordinate unit, the 173rd Airborne

Brigade, have known about the deployment for almost a year. "[The notification] was so far out, we knew we could get the soldiers trained to do the mission."

SETAF will take over for the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division. Kamiya said it would be the first time a nondivision-size headquarters staff has been assigned to take over a mission run by a larger unit. He and Savosa credited the U.S. Army Europe headted the U.S. Army Europe headquarters staff for contributing support and personnel to make it happen.

Öf course, SETAF will be far from alone in country. The 1st Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, elements from the Giebelstadt, Germany-based 12th Aviation Brigade and the Illesheim, Germany-based 11th Aviation Regiment and other reserve and active-duty units from the States and the Pacific Hepater will soon be serving in Afghanistan.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force is also in country and is expected to take a greater role in peacekeeping efforts during SETAF's year in Afghanistan. An Italian commander is scheduled to take over ISAF from a Turkish counterpart during that span. Kamiya told Italian journalists

after the ceremony that he expects to have a good relationship with the Italian commander "given the fact that we both come from the same host nation."

Advance elements from Joint Task Force-76 are already in Afghanistan and the SETAF headquarters is expected to join them shortly. Some units, both on base and elsewhere, won't actually be in country until after SETAF takes command on March 15.

Kamiya said his thoughts and emotions about the deployment probably echo that of most of his soldiers.

He cited apprehension, confidence and excitement, before addressing anxiety.

"You're trained to a razor's edge and you just want to get there and get the game going," he said.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harrisk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Pentagon seeks leeway with rules on special ops entering countries

i ne wasnington Pos

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is promoting a global counterterrorism plan that would allow special operations forces to enter a foreign country to conduct military operations without explicit concurrence from the U.S. ambassador there, administration officials familiar with the plan said.

The plan would weaken the long-standing "chief of mission" authority under which the U.S. ambassador, as the president's top representative in a foreign country, decides whether to grant entry to U.S. government personnel based on political and diplomatic considerations. The special opp smissions envisioned in the plan would largely be secret, known to only a handful of officials from the foreign country, if any.

The change is included in a highly classified "execute order" — part of a strategy developed since Sept. 11, 2001, to give the U.S. Special Operations Command new flexibility to track down and destroy terrorist networks worldwide, the officials said.

The Pentagon sees the greater leeway as vital to enabling commando forces to launch operations quickly and stealthily against terrorist groups without often time-consuming interagency debate, said administration officials familiar with the plan. In the Pentagon view, the campaign against terrorism is a war and requires similar freedom to prosecute as in Iraq, where the military chain of command coordinates closely with the U.S. Embassy but is not subject to traditional chief-of-mission authority.

The State Department and the CIA have fought the proposal, saying it would be dangerous to dilute the authority of the U.S. ambassador and CIA station chief to oversee U.S. military and intelligence activities in other countries.

Over the past two years, the State Department has repeatedly blocked Pentagon efforts to send special operations forces into countries surreptitiously, cur-

rent and former administration officials said.

In one instance, U.S. commanders tried to dispatch Special Forces soldiers into Pakistan without gaining ambasadorial approval but were rebuilded by the State Department, said two sources familiar with the event. The soldiers eventually entered Pakistan with proper clearance but were ordered out again by the ambassador for what was described at

reckless behavior.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has made it clear that she intends to protect the existing chief-of-mission authority.

Bad weather cited in Texas helo crash that killed 7 in November

FORT HOOD, Texas — An Army helicopter crash that killed seven soldiers in November was caused by the pilots' attempt to fly under visual flight rules in poor weather conditions. an investigation has found

Army officials announced the findings Tuesday, about a month after the investigation of the Black Hawk crash was com pleted and the results shared

with the victims' relatives. Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division, said administrative disciplinary action has been taken against the company and battalion commander and two members of the chain of command. The company commander has been removed.

Details concerning the administrative action cannot be released, he said.

Nov. 29 when their helicopter plummeted to the ground after apparently striking cables sup porting a TV transmission tower

near Waco The crash into the 1.800-foot tower's cables occurred on a foggy morning in rural McLennan County, about 20 minutes into the two-hour flight to the Red River Army Depot near Texarkana, Texas

The tower's flashing red warning lights were not working at the time.

The victims included Brig. Gen. Charles "Ben" Allen, an assistant division commander from Lawton, Okla., and six comrades from the 4th Infantry Division who had returned home safely after serving in the Iraq

They were going to the Red River Army Depot to check on repairs to 225 Humvees being readied for Iraq.

WASHINGTON D.C.

Italy launches anti-mafia raids in areas near bases

NAPLES. Italy - Italian authorities have launched a number of anti-mafia raids in the Nanles area over the past few days resulting in dozens of arrests, and weapons and property seizures.

On Monday, carabinieri military police raided buildings in Mondragone, arresting an undisclosed number of people from the La Torre camorra clan. which, according to Italian government press re-ports, "controls the area" around the town. Those arrested face extortion and weapons charges.

Mondragone lies along the main coastal highway between Naval Support Activity Gaeta and NSA Naples and is well-traveled by Americans.

On Wednesday, police seized 3 million euros worth of real estate and other assets from two broth-

ers associated with the Casalesi camorra clan near Caserta. One brother had been jailed since 1996 and the other remains free Caserta lies a few miles north of the NSA Naples

Gricignano housing area. Also on Wednesday, carabinieri also made eight arrests in Boscoreale and Torre Annunziata, at the

base of Mount Vesuvius. According to the AGI news agency report, more warrants have since been issued with charges ranging from drug dealing and extortion to illegal posses-

sion of firearms. Finally, also on Wednesday, 21 Italians and South Americans living in Naples were arrested during a multicity anti-drug operation. The operation target ed a ring that brought drugs from Colombia to Italy to have been sold in the Naples and Florence areas.



In a lawsuit filed against Department of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, labor unions for some DOD civilian employees say the department is using security issues as a way to diminish the unions' ability to advocate for

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DOD under fire from workers

Unions sue Rumsfeld over Defense's labor management system

BY JANE M. VON BERGEN Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA - Ten labor unions, representing 300,000 civilian employees of the U.S. Department of Defense.

filed a federal lawsuit Wednes-HOME Atlanta. \$ 339 \$ 299 \$ 339

New York New Orleans Phoenix \$ 339 Los Angeles \$ 465 San Francisco \$ 439 Detroit. \$ 339 Vacations by Air Egypt 1week EU 1050 Russia 1 week \$ 1390 CRUISES EU 699 up Istanbul \$339up TOP TOURISTIK

day against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, saying Rumsfeld's department has refused to negotiate changes in its labor management system in violation of the law.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington comes after months of protests by the unions over proposals for a new National Security Personnel System which was authorized for development by Congress in November 2003.

The unions say the system, which seeks flexibility in hiring and assigning workers for security reasons, is using threats to security as a way to diminish the unions' ability to advocate for workers.

The Department of Defense's Web site said the new system is needed to replace outmoded human resource practices and better support the department's "critical national security mission."

Bradley Bunn, NSPS deputy program executive officer, would not comment directly on the suit. But in a statement he said that "the proposed NSPS regulations are the product of a collaborative effort across the Department that ... included a number of meetings with employee representatives involving extensive and fruitful discussions

The lawsuit said the Defense Department had the right to establish changes in the depart-ment's labor relations systems, but by law, those changes would have to be done in collaboration with employees.

Instead, the suit said, "secret working groups" developed changes privately and did not provide unions with concrete proposals.

The lawsuit asks the judge to restrain the Defense Department from implementing any new labor systems until it provides drafts of proposals and enters into meaningful discussion.

Among the unions filing suit were the International Association of Firefighters, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and the American Federation of Government Employees, Besides Rumsfeld, the unions sued Dan G. Blair, acting director of the United States Office of Personnel Management.

U.S. civilians working in Iraq are making big sacrifices, but most people don't know it

The sting of being overlooked

By KIRSTEN SCHARNRERG Chicago Tribune

ASTORIA, Ore. - Having no idea of the significance of his de-livery, the FedEx driver hurriedly tossed five massive boxes containing everything Anthony Stramiello had possessed in Iraq onto his widow's front porch.

Roberta Stramiello was jolted from the living room sofa by the thuds

"I'd better go see what's going on out there," she said apprehen-sively. The last time strangers had been milling about her front porch - on the evening of Dec. 21 - they had been there to tell her that her husband was dead.

It is perhaps revealing that the personal effects of Anthony Stramiello, a 61-year-old construction contractor who had been working in the Iraqi city of Mosul at the time of his death, were returned to the United States with so little ceremony on a recent February morning.

In the nearly two years since

the war began in Iraq, at least 232 civilians working on U.S. military reconstruction contracts have been killed there, many in violent but largely overlooked slayings, according to a report issued to Congress several weeks ago.

Because of difficulties in ac-counting for this virtual army of private contractors in Iraq many of whom are working in supply, logistics and even combat roles integral to the military's mis-- the death toll actually could be far higher

The number of civilian contractors who have been killed in Iraq is far greater than any other group over there other than the U.S. military itself," said Peter Singer, an expert on national security and Iraq military contracts at the Brookings Institution

Below the radar

Yet aside from brief moments of attention after high-profile kidnappings, beheadings or bloody ambushes caught on videotape, the public's focus rarely has been on these at-risk civilian workers.

Few Americans seem aware these contractors are dying at a rate never before seen in American military history, and the bulk of the public's support and sympa-thy remains directed toward the families of the more than 1,400 military personnel killed on duty



"[Contractors] don't come home to funerals with full military honors or flag-draped coffins or bugles playing taps. Their fami-lies don't get letters from the president," Stramiello said. "I guess I didn't feel that way personally for me, my husband is gone either way — but I can understand how others might feel the sting of

The best method the U.S. Department of Labor has for tracking the number of contractors killed in Iraq is to monitor how many insurance claims are made under the Defense Base Act, a law that requires employees who work on national or international government contracts to be provided insurance, including compensation benefits in the event of their deaths. But some families may not know they are entitled to



Civilian contractors install a gunner's shield atop a Humvee from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit at an armor installation facility in Kuwait last July.

such benefits and never officially report their family member's

Adding to the difficulty of monitoring how many contractors die in Iraq is the fact that there is no organization keeping an official tally of the number of civilians working there. Such an account-ing would be difficult because the workers come from dozens of different countries despite the fact they all are employed by companies that have been awarded U.S. military and reconstruction con-

In from the Cold War

Irag's battlefield actually was shaped most pivotally by events of the previous century. After the end of the Cold War, militaries around the world began to downsize. But at the same time, the world began to change - and destabilize in some places. Whole regions of the world

were becoming so volatile that their governments were looking

to hire professionals to protect them from violent senaratists. Globalization was bringing Western companies into these same unsettled parts of the world, and they, too, needed security consultants and protection. And Islamic

fundamentalism and terrorism were increasing to the degree that some peacekeepers and humanitarian aid groups soon found Few Americans

contractors are

duina at a rate

never before seen

in American

need of private guards. developed to fill all needs these what Singer has dubbed "nriva military tized

themselves

firms "PMFs are busi ness providers of military history. professional ser vices intricately

linked to warfare in other words, the corporate evolution of the age-old practice of mercenaries," Singer, who is considered the nation's foremost expert on the topic, writes in an upcoming issue of Foreign Affairs maga-

In 2002, as it became clear the country was headed toward war, a number of factors all but guaranteed that an unprecedented number of civilian workers would be required to pull it off, Singer

The war would be more politically palatable if fewer troops were deemed necessary to deploy, he argued. Army Chief of Staff Gen Eric Shinseki in fact was pressed into retirement from his job after he predicted that an invasion of Iraq would require "several hundred thousand" troops, not the less than 150,000 United States eventually

Into the breach

When the war began in March 2003, civilian contractors filled any gap between bodies deployed and bodies needed. But outsourcing this work to private workers did not come cheaply - or without risk.

Where once a low-paid private first class might be assigned to serve food in the mess hall, now civilian contractors could demand high wages to take those jobs. Where soldiers could be court-martialed for refusing to carry out an order, civilian contractors could refuse to take missions — delivering fuel or ammu-nition, for example — if they believed they were too danger

"I think there is a significant question as to whether very heavy use of civil-

ian contractors is cost-effective, said Scott Silliseem aware these man, the executive director of Center on Law, Ethics and National Security at Duke Universi-

ty.
"In addition to that, there is the loss of control. But it does accom-

plish the objective of allowing the personnel in uniform to be assigned to the combat-specific, trigger-pull roles in-stead of using them for logistics

and support. Silliman, a former Air Force judge advocate who supervised deployment of all Air Force attorneys to the 1991 Gulf War, worries even more about the legal issues that may result from the presence of civilian contractors

"There are two important things to consider," he said. "The vulnerability of these civilians and the accountability of these civilians. If they are hurt or killed there, what legal protections are afforded them? If they commit

crimes, can they be prosecuted?"

Back at the Victorian mansion she and her husband had been painstakingly rehabbing before he went to Iraq, Roberta Stramiello spends little time in the rooms the couple already had finished, instead wandering through the ones that remain torn apart. She constantly points out what still needs to be done.

"I've done everything I can in this room," she says sadly, "the rest of the work I need Tony to

After the FedEx driver left on that recent morning, Roberta Stra miello made her way outside to begin the painful process of un-packing her dead husband's things. The five black trunks waited on the front porch Anthony Stramiello had built



Kevin DaVee, Engineer and Construction Division, chips away at the crusted earth while examining oil spill contamination in Iraq's southern Rumaila oil fields. A Corps of Engineers contractor with ERST/O'Brien stands by ready to assist.

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Bomb hits Iraqi police station

Series of attacks kill 30 across Iraq, including 2 U.S. soldiers

BY SAMEER N. YACOUBD The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - A man wearing a police uniform drove a car bomb into police headquarters in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit in the largest of a series of attacks on Thursday in Iraq that left a total of 30 people dead, including two U.S. soldiers.

The violence came a day after interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi announced he was forming a coalition to try to hold onto his nost in the next government and block the candidate of the dominant Shiite political alliance. The U.S. command said two American soldiers were killed and two wounded in bomb attacks Thursday, one northeast of Baghdad in Qaryat, and a second near Samarra, west of Qaryat

At least five other Iraqi police were killed in separate attacks across the insurgent-wracked country, including another suicide car bomb assault on a police convoy in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of the capital

Two roadside bombs in Qaim, the Syrian border, also killed four Iraqi National Guards men, Iraqi Lt. Col. Abid Ajab Al-Salmani said

In the capital, gunmen opened fire on a bakery, killing two people and wounding a third, police Several blasts echoed through the city at midday, but their cause was not immediately known

The blast in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, occurred at one of the station's busiest times. when dozens of policemen were arriving to relieve colleagues who'd been working all night, police Col. Saad Daham said. The at-tack killed 15 police and wounded nearly two dozen others.

waited until the shift change, then he exploded the car," Daham said of the attacker, adding the aim was "to kill as many as possible."

Daham said the bomber was able to slip into the station undetected because he was wearing a police lieutenant's uniform. He blamed guards at the station's gates for allowing the assailant to enter without checking his papers or searching his vehicle.

Twenty cars were set ablaze after the massive blast, sending clouds of smoke into the sky. An Associated Press photographer on the scene saw at least 10 charred bodies laying on the ground, which was splattered with pools of blood and bits of human flesh.

Several ambulances raced to the blast site, ferrying casualties to a local hospital. U.S. troops sealed off the area and set up checkpoints and searched vehicles across the city.

Elsewhere, insurgents am-bushed a police patrol in the northern city of Kirkuk with a roadside bomb, killing two policemen and injuring three.

In Iskandariyah, a suicide bomber blew himself up in front of an office that serves as the local headquarters of the Shiite Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, killing five people, including three police officers and a child who was walking down the road at the time, the government said.

Police initially said the attack targeted the town's police chief. Col. Salman Ali, who escaped un-

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, Feb. 23 2005, at least 1,484 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,126 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures in-clude four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military

A soldier died Wednesday when an explosive detonated near Tuz, Iraq, north of Bagh-A Marine died Tuesday in a

vehicle accident in Anbar province, Iraq.
The latest identifications re-

ported by the military:

Marine Lance Cpl. Trevor
D. Aston, 32, Austin, Texas; died
Tuesday after a vehicle accident in Anbar province, Iraq; as-signed to Marine Forces Re-serves 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Austin, Texas. Killed Monday when an explo

sive detonated near their con-vov in Baghdad; assigned to the Minnesota National Guard, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, Montevideo, Minn.:

Army 1st Lt. Jason Timmer-man, 24, Tracy, Minn.

■ Army Staff Sgt. David Day, 25, St. Louis Park, Minn. ■ Army Sgt. Jesse Lhotka, 24, Alexandria, Minn.





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Army overhauling its operations at detention centers

The Army has

reworked

training

operations,

and is

rewriting

doctrine to

clarify what

is permitted.

BY JOSH WHITE

The Washington Post
WASHINGTON — The Army
has initiated extensive changes in
the way it trains for and conducts
its worldwide detention operations, acknowledging that a series
of investigations into prisoner
abuses in Iraq, Afghanistan and
Cuba revealed failures, omissions
or confusion in Army doctrine
and training that might have con-

tributed to the Donald Ryder, the Army's provost marshal general and head of the Army's criminal investigation command, said Wednesday that the wide-ranging abuse investiga tions launched after the Abu Ghraib prison scandal prompted the Army to rework

its detention operations, specifically in training soldiers about their roles in prisons and rewriting doctrine to clarify what they are permitted to do in their jobs.

Some of the investigations released over the past year pointed to confusion between military police and military intelligence soldiers and a lack of clarity about allowable interrogation techniques.

lowable interrogation techniques. Ryder's description Wednesday of an overhaul in training and doctrine contrasted with early Army investigations, which ruled out doctrinal or systemic problems as the root causes of the abuse.

The Army's inspector general, who issued his report on the abuses to Congress in July, called the abuses at Abu Ghraib "aberra-

tions" and wrote that they should be blamed on "the failure of individuals to follow known standards of discipline and Army values and, in some cases, the failure of a few leaders to enforce those standards of discipline."

Ryder told reporters at the Pentagon on Wednesday that the Army has since altered its interrogation policies and techniques, developed a new training program

for correctional soldiers, and revised two doctrine manuals and craated six new doctrine manuals that relate to detention operations. He said the Army also is planning to add 35 specialized correctional units over the next three years.

"The Army has taken action ...," Ryder said. "This is an ongoing learning process." Specifically at

Abu Ghraib, the soldiers who have been criminally implicated in abuses were low-ranking military police soldiers who said they had little or no training in correctional operations. Some also said they were approached by military intelligence officials to help ployed tactics that are considered orture by international standards, including the use of military working dogs.

Ryder also said the Army has retooled its interrogations manual to clarify which tactics are approved and to define the "left and right boundaries," so less is left up to an interrogator's discretion and so the tactics comply with the Geneva Conventions. A A A A

U.S. Army Military Police escort a detainee to his cell in January 2002 at Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where detainees from the war on terror have been kept since shortly after the invasion of Afghanistan. Abuse investigations at U.S. military prisons have prompted the Army to rework its detention operations at U.S. prisons worldwide, specifically in training soldiers about their COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY

AP



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Guardsman opts out of Iraq after brother slain

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — The mother of a soldier killed in Iraq said she was relieved her other son decided not to join his recently deployed Hawaii National Guard unit in Iraq.

Nakoa Hoe, a member of the 100th Battalion, 29th Brigade, was allowed to seek a waiver from combat duty since he is now the sole surviving son of Allen and Adele Hoe.

The couple was at Honolulu Hale (city hall) on Wednesday as the City Council paid tribute to their son, Army 1st Lt. Nainoa Hoe, and more than two dozen Kaneohe Marines killed in Iraq.

"We're very much appreciative

of the incredible outpouring of aloha and love which this community has bestowed upon our family in honor of our son, and we're deeply grateful," Allen Hoe said. "My only wish is that we do

"My only wish is that we do more to honor our troops when they are alive." Adele Hoe said. "I'm saddened that my son never lived to see how much of the outpouring of love by everyone. And I'd like to say let's do more for our troops to honor them when they're here."

Nainoa Hoe, 27, was killed by a sniper in Mosul on Jan. 22 while leading his platoon. He was a graduate of Kamehameha Schools and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Hawaii College of Business Administration.



IN THE WORLD

Bush, Putin agree to limit nuclear countries



Presiden Bush, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands Thursday in Bratislava. Slovakia, after a press conference where Bush said they were in unison on the importance of stopping suspected nuclear weapons programs in North Korea and Iran.

Leaders have sometimes-prickly exchange on Russian democracy

BY TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed Thursday on new efforts to keep nuclear arms out of dangerous hands, but their sharp differences over Russian backsliding on democracy spilled into an open and sometimes-prickly exchange.

Seeking common ground with a former Cold War enemy that is now a key anti-terror partner, Bush said the two leaders stressed agreements over differ-

Standing side by side, their answers to questions about U.S. concerns that Putin is moving to solidify central power and quash dissent showed the sensitivity of the tonic

"It's very important that all nations understand the great values inherent in democracy—rule of law and protection of minorities, viable political debate," Bush said. "And when I brought that — Vladimir can speak for himself on this issue. All I can tell you is he said, 'Yes meant yes when we talked about values that we share."

"Russia has made its choice in favor of democracy," Putin said. "This is our final choice and there is no way back, there can be no return to what we used to have."

Putin added: "We are not going to make up, to invent any kind of special Russian democracy. We are going to commit to the fundamental principles that have been established in the world."

Despite those assurances, Putin had criticism for aspects of the U.S. system. And he suggested that Russians who oppose his actions can sway public opinion because they 'are richer than those who are in favor."

"We often do not pay attention to that,"

He also compared his move to end direct popular election of regional governors to the American Electoral College process of electing presidents.

"It's not considered undemocratic, is it?" Putin said.

As the leaders met for two hours at a medieval castle overlooking the snow-covered capital and the Danube River, aides inked an agreement designed to counter conventional and nuclear terrorism, in part by restricting the availability of shoulder-fired missiles capable of bringing down aircraft.

"We agreed to accelerate our work to protect nuclear weapons and materials both in our two nations and around the world," Bush said.

Bush said they were in unison on the importance of stopping suspected nuclear weapons programs in North Korea and Iran. Putin did not address the topic.

"We agreed that Iran should not have a madeous programs." I ampeted the didning of the stopping of t

"We agreed that Iran should not have a nuclear weapon. I appreciate Vladimir's understanding on that," Bush said. "We agreed that North Korea should not have a nuclear weapon."

The visit to Slovakia was the final leg on Bush's five-day tour to heal the transat-lantic rift caused by his March 2003 decision to invade Iraq without broad international support. He visited Belgium and Germany before coming here, and met with European leaders at NATO and European Union meetings in Brussels.

Serb general surrenders

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro— A senior Bosnian Serb general indicted for his alleged role in a massacre of thousands of Muslims during the Bosnian war surrendered to the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague on Thursday.

Retired Gen. Milan Gvero, who was a close aide to wartime Bosnian Serb commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, is a top war crimes fugitive. He was taken to a cell at the U.N. detention unit in the Netherlands, the tribunal said.

Gvero is charged with the forceful expulsion and murder of Muslims during an onslaught by Bosnian Serb forces on Srebrenica in 1995 when more than 7,000 Muslim men and boys were executed.

Syria to pull out of Lebanon

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria will withdraw troops from mountain and coastal areas in Lebanon in line with a 1989 agreement, Lebanon's defense minister said Thursday amid international pressure following the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Lebanese and Syrian military officers have begun meetings to define "the dates and the way" the withdrawal will take place, Murad said, adding that the pullback was in line with the Arab-brokered Taif agreement that ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

Arrests called effective

MANILA, Philippines — Police said Thursday they thwarted planned attacks on an airport, malls, a church and U.S. troops with the arrests of three members of an al-Qaida linked terror group who allegedly came to the Philippines to train Muslim militants to make bombs.

The two Indonesians and a Malaysian — all alleged Jemaah Islamiyah members — were arrested in southern Zamboanga city in December along with a Filipino member of the Abu

Sayyaf Muslim extremist group with bomb-making manuals, bomb parts and money for attacks, officials said.

Terror risk high in London

LONDON — The head of London's Metropolitan Police force on Thursday warned about the risks of a terrorist attack in Britain with a royal wedding and a national election expected this

Sir Ian Blair said it would be "unwise" to speculate about whether he had specific information on the risk of an attack in the run-up to the general elections, widely expected in early

an attack in the run-up to the general elections, widely expected in early May.

This year, Britain also will hold the presidency of the G8 group of the world's wealthy nations and the presi-

dency of the European Union. Terror lairs destroyed

ISI.AMABAD, Pakistan — President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said Thursday that Pakistani forces have destroyed al-Qaida-linked militants' sanctuaries and communication systems along the Afghan border, but still have no clue as to Osama bin Laden's whereabouts.

Musharraf told reporters that Pakistan — a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States — had captured 700 terror suspects in cities, and "eliminated" hundreds of them in tribal regions on the border.

Afghan elections face delay

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's parliamentary elections face delay after the government failed to resolve issues including the voting system for its first post-Taliban legislature ahead of a key deadline, the United Nations said Thursday.

The vote was slated for the Afehan

The vote was slated for the Afghan month of Saur, which ends on May 21. The exact election date must be declared at least 90 days in advance — meaning the deadline passed at the end of last week.

From wire reports



-

Women kneel in prayer Thursday at the Polish St. Stanislaw Church in Rome. Roman Catholics around the world stopped Thursday to pray for Pope John Paul II as word spread that the pontiff had been rushed to the hospital with the flu for the second time in a month.

Pope prepped for tracheotomy

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Doctors were preparing to operate on Pope John Paul II on Thursday to help ease his breathing problems, an Italian news agency said.

The news agencies ANSA and Apcom said doctors would perform a tracheotomy—a procedure in which a hole is made in the throat and a tube is inserted to assist breathing. The pope already was in the operating

room, according to Apcom.

The reports came hours after the 84-yearold pope was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance for the second time in a month after
suffering fever and congestion from a recurrence of the flu. A Vatican spokesman refused
comment on the reports.

The pontiff had the same symptoms of the breathing crisis and a flu-like illness that sent him to Gemelli Polyclinic on Feb. 1, a Vatican

official said. On Wednesday, the pope made his longest public appearance since being discharged from the clinic two weeks ago.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said earlier Thursday that the pope was taken to the Rome hospital for "necessary specialized assistance and further tests." He was taken by ambulance at 10:45 a.m. officials said.

But aides said the pope had a fever, congestion and had suffered a recurrence of breathing problems.

Medical experts who have not examined the pope but are familiar with elderly Parkinson's patients say his symptoms appeared to be consistent with pneumonia.

"It appears the pope is suffering from pneumonia, likely a bacterial pneumonia, a serious problem for a man of his age with Parkinson's," said Dr. Barbara Paris, chairwoman of geriatrics at Maimonides Medical Center in New York

IN THE STATES

Pentagon under fire from workers

Unions sue Rumsfeld over Defense's labor management system

Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHIIADELPHIA — Ten labor unions, representing 30,000 civilian employees of the U.S. Department of Defense, filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, saying Rumsfeld's department has refused to negotiate change in its labor management system in violation of the law.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, comes after months of protests by the unions over proposals for a new National Security Personnel System, which was authorized for development by Congress in November 2003

The unions say the system, which seeks flexibility in hiring and assigning workers for security reasons, is using threats to security as a way to diminish the unions' ability to advocate for workers.

The Department of Defense's Web site

The Department of Detense's Web site said the new system is needed to replace outmoded human resource practices and better support the department's "critical national security mission."

Bradley Bunn, NSPS deputy program exective officer, would not comment directly on the suit. But in a statement he said that "the proposed NSPS regulations are the product of a collaborative effort across the Department that, included a number of meetings with employe representatives involving ex-

tensive and fruitful discussions."

The lawsuit said the Defense Department had the right to establish changes in the department's labor relations systems, but by law, those changes would have to be done in collaboration with employees.

Instead, the suit said, "secret working groups" developed changes privately and did not provide unions with concrete proposals.

The lawsuit asks the judge to restrain the Defense Department from implementing any new labor systems until it provides drafts of proposals and enters into meaningful discussion.

Among the unions filing suit were the International Association of Firefighters, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and the American Federation of Government Employees. Besides Rumsfeld, the unions sued Dan G. Bair, acting director of the United States Office of Personnel Manasement.



ABACA PRESS/KRT

In a lawsuit filed against Department of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, labor unions for some DOD civilian employees say the department is using security issues as a way to diminish the unions' ability to advocate for workers.

Harsh winter soaks sunny image of California

BY BEN FOX The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Looking to escape the gloomy Northwest, Denise Nienaber and her family flew to Southern California to visit Disneyland and enjoy some sunny

They should have stayed home.

The family arrived from Seattle amid a storm of historic proportions that eventually forced them to abandon the resort — despite a rare chance to wait just five minutes to see the Haunted House.

"We didn't even consider the weather, thinking it would be beautiful," Nienaber, 38, said. "We got totally soaked."

Nienaber, her husband and two daughters retreated to their motel to watch television and consider alternatives — something that has become necessary for tourists and locals alike as Southern California wades through the wettest winter in a century. The rainfall has totaled about 34 inches in



downtown Los Angeles since July 1, when California begins recording its yearly rain-

It's been far more than Seattle or Portland in the same period.

The wet weather has flooded freeways,

mows a green at the flooded Morgan Run golf course along the San Dieguito River in North San Diego county Tuesday. The famed California lifestyle has taken a big hit due to the storm that has left the state

sent houses skidding down hillsides and littered beaches with mountains of trash and tree limbs as storm runoff made its way to the ocean.

the ocean.

It's quite an adjustment in a place known for eternal sunshine.

People dodge puddles and scattered palm fronds in the streets, actually drive more slowly on the freeways, and even talk about the weather in a region that usually doesn't have any worth discussing

have any worth discussing.

The famed Southern California lifestyle has taken a big hit: Surfers have been advised to avoid the runoff-contaminated waves; puddles spread across empty tennis courts; and golfers trudge across muddy fairwavs.

Even so, some residents are undeterred. Die-hard surfers were intent on riding storm-driven swells.

"The water's brown, but you'll see a lot of surfers out there," said Matt Medina, a native San Diegan and manager of a surf shop. "It's a risk you take, and if you get sick, you get sick."

get Sick."
Golfer Jack Milliken, 47, a human resources executive from Irvine, also pressed

on.

"It's definitely annoying ... but you gotta

play golf," he said. "Not playing is not an option."

Former congressman's conviction upheld

PIERRE, S.D. — The state's highest court on Thursday upheld Bill Janklow's conviction for a 2003 crash that killed a motorcyclist, rejecting the former congressman's argument that there wasn't enough evidence for a guilty vertice. Ruling unanimously, the South Dakota Supreme Court also found that Janklow had received a fair trial.

Janklow, 65, was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and reckless driving for killing 55-year-old motorcyclist Randy Scott in August 2003 on a rural highway near Trent. Authorities said Janklow sped through a stop sign. Janklow has said he was in a diabetic stupor and remembers nothing about the crash.

Janklow resigned from the House in January 2004. He completed a 100-day jail sentence but had hoped to use the appeal to clear the felony from his record.

Court rules sperm use was not theft

CHICAGO — An appeals court said a man can press a claim for emotional distress after learning a former lover had used his sperm to have a baby. But he can't claim theft, the ruling said, because the sperm were hers to keep.

The ruling Wednesday by the Illinois Appellate Court sends Dr. Richard O. Phillips' distress case back to trial court.

Phillips accuses Dr. Sharon Irons of a "calculated, profound personal betrayal" after their affair six years ago, saying she secretly kept semen after they had oral sex, then used it to get pregnant.

He said he didn't find out about the child for nearly two years, when Irons filed a paternity lawsuit. DNA tests confirmed Phillips was the father, the court papers state.

Former terrorists seek legitimacy

dranchad

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One-time members of a terrorist organization are hiding in the United States — in plain sight.

The organization's former U.S. representative freely walks the streets and has a contract with Fox News as a foreign affairs analyst. Lawmakers write letters on the group's behalf. And former intelligence officials say the group maintains contacts in defense circles, although the Pentagon denies it.

A cult to some and freedom fighters to others, the National Council of Resistance of Iran and its affiliate groups typify the gray areas in the often black-and-white world of the war on terror.

While they've been designated foreign terrorist organizations by the State Department, the groups' members still maneuver between the restrictions aimed at disabling them.

The former U.S. representative for the council, Alireza Jafarzadeh, says the U.S. government listed his organization as terrorists to appease moderate elements within the Irani-

44I see increasingly more voices being raised against this [terrorist] designation ? ?

Alireza Jafarzadeh, National Council of Resistance of Iran

an government. He's hoping the Bush administration will lift the terrorist designation.

"I see increasingly more voices being raised against this designation in different parts within the administration and outside the administration," said Jafarzadeh, who notes that his group no longer exists in the United States but his free-speech rights allow him to discuss policies it once advocated.

"The more serious people get about Iran, the more they are against the designation," he said.

The mission of the National Council and its military wing — the Mujahedin-e-Khalq or MEK — is to overthrow the Iranian regime, an aim increasingly in line with the Bush administration. Yet the administration has stopped short of calling for regime change.

In last month's State of the Union speech, President Bush called Iran "the world's primary state sponsor of terror." In Europe this week, he maintained the pressure, calling suggestions that the United States is preparing to attack Iran "simply ridiculous," but quickly adding, "all options are on the table."

Yet the MEK is far from a U.S. ally. As soon as the State Department created a list of terror organizations in 1997, it named the MEK. By 1999, the department designated the MEK's political arm, the National Council of Resistance, and related affiliates. The State Department says the MEK groups were funded by Saddam Hussein.

A State Department official said U.S. policy toward the MEK and its affiliates has not changed. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the group is still considered a threat because of its history of launching terrorist attacks

From The Associated Press

Writer goes gonzo with last request

Thompson's ashes may be shot out of a cannon

The Associated Pres-

DENVER - Hunter S. Thompson, the "gonzo journalist" with a penchant for drugs, guns and flame-thrower prose, might have one more salvo in store for everyone: Friends and relatives want to blast his ashes out of a cannon, just as he wished

"If that's what he wanted, we'll see if we can pull it off," said historian Douglas Brinkley, a friend of Thompson's and now the family's spokesman.

Thompson, who fatally shot himself at his Asnen-area home Sunday at 67 said several times he wanted an artillery send-off

"There's no question, I'm sure that's what he would want," said Mike Cleverly, a longtime friend and neighbor. "Hunter truly loved that kind of thing.'

Colorado fireworks impresario Marc Williams said it's doable.

"Oh sweet I'd love to I would so love to," said Williams, 44, owner of Night Musick Inc. in suburban Denver and a fan of Thompson's writing.

Thompson's wife, Anita, and son, Juan are looking into the cannon scenario, said Brinkley, who has edited some of Thompson's work.

In comments published Thursday, members of Thompson's family said the writer discussed committing suicide at least 10 years before he took his life.



Hunter S. Thompson was out there to the end - his final wishes include having his ashes blasted out of a cannon. Fireworks impresario Marc Williams, right, and employee Thomas Majors, posing with fireworks, want the job. Williams says he'd shoot the ashes 800 feet into the sky, then have a window-rattling second blast scatter them amid a massive bloom of color. Majors would construct the ash container.

"I've known for many, many years that this is how Hunter would go." Juan Thompson told the Rocky Mountain News in Thursday's editions. "It was just a question of when. This was a big surprise and I didn't expect it to be now, but the means

was exactly as we expected.

Brinkley also said Thompson did not take his life "in a moment of haste or anger or de-spondency" but probably planned his suicide well in advance because of declining health. The author of books including "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" was in pain from a host of problems that included a broken leg and a hip replacement.

"I think he made a conscious decision that he had an incredible run of 67 years. lived the way he wanted to, and wasn't going to suffer the indignities of old age." Brinkley said. "He was not going to let any body dictate how he was going to die.

Thompson had spent an intimate week-end with his son, daughter-in-law and young grandson, the spokesman said.

"He was trying to really bond and be close to the family" before his suicide, Brinkley said. "This was not just an act of irrationality. It was a very pre-planned act.

If the Thompson job were his, Williams said, he would probably blast the ashes from a 12-inch diameter mortar 800 feet into the sky. Then a second, window-rat-tling blast would scatter them amid a blossom of color 600 feet across.

Author says he regrets release of Bush tapes

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - An old friend of President Bush who secretly recorded their pri-vate conversations and released them to the media said he has regrets and is turn-ing the tapes over to Bush.

Doug Wead allowed journalists to hear and broadcast the tapes in the past week as he promoted his new book on presidential

But he said he canceled plans to be on "Hardball" on MSNBC Tuesday night because "it would only add to the distraction I have caused to the president's important and historic work."

"Contrary to a statement that I made to the New York Times, I have come to real-ize that personal relationships are more important than history," Wead wrote in a let-ter to the show's host, Chris Matthews, that MSNBC released to the public Wednesday.

"I am asking my attorney to direct any future proceeds from the book to charity and to find the best way to vet these tapes and get them back to the president to whom they belong. History can wait."

On the tapes, recorded over the course of the two years before Bush became the Republican presidential nominee, Bush discusses strategy for his presidential run and appears to acknowledge past drug use. He says he will refuse to answer questions about using LSD, cocaine and marijuana because "I don't want any kid doing what I tried to do 30 years ago.

The White House said Bush did not dispute the content of the tapes. The presi-dent's aides brushed off repeated questions about the tapes by saying Bush con-sidered them casual conversations "with someone he thought was a friend."



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More blacks, Latinos jailed in Texas

AUSTIN — More than 70 percent of inmates in Texas prisons are black or Latino, nearly doubling their percentage of the general popula-ion, according to a report released Thursday. The report by the Washington, D.C. based Justice Policy Institute found that blacks are sent to prison at a rate five times higher than whites in Texas. Latinos were incarcerated at twice the rate of whites,

the report said. State and House and Senate leaders are considering expanding probation and drug treatment programs this legislative session as a w

curb the state's rising prison population. Georgia father stabs kids, kills himself

COLUMBUS, Ga. - A father fatally stabbed his two young children and seriously wounded three others with a hunting knife before com-

mitting suicide by slitting his own throat, police said.

The father, Clarence Lacey Moore, 24, and the five children were found in a home in south Columbus after Wednesday's attack, police said. Beverly Moore, the mother of all five children, was not injured.

said police Maj. Russell Traino. It was not immediately clear whether the three wounded children were related to Clarence Moore.

Pennsylvania trooper fatally shoots himself

LANCASTER, Pa. - A veteran state trooper fatally shot himself Wednesday, four days after authorities searched his home for items "related to child pornography," a state police official said.

Trooper Arthur J. Mizzoni, 49, was found dead in his pickup truck in

the parking lot outside his barracks in Ephrata, about 60 miles north-west of Philadelphia.

Hunter fined \$18 million for Calif. fire

EDDING, Calif. - A lost hunter who started a forest fire in northern California while trying to keep warm was ordered to pay \$18.2 million restitution. The fire in the Mendocino National Forest burned 6,058 acres and cost \$33 million to suppress, authorities said. The restitution covers the U.S. Forest Service's cost of fighting the fire and restoring

the burned area, prosecutors said.

Jason Hoskey, 26, of Willows, lit a campfire when he got lost hunting on Sept. 27, 2003. The fire spread after he fell asleep.

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General: Bush visit memorable

On Wednesday, U.S. European Command was visited by the commander in chief and the 1st Armored Division was most fortunate to be the hosting community.

Iron soldiers and their families along with our partner units living and serving in the Wiesbaden community along with many Marines, airmen and sailors - were honored to participate in a memorable visit from President Bush and first lady Laura Bush. The day was truly exciting for all, and one we will never forget

The president asked me to relay to all servicemembers, civilian employees and their families serving throughout the European Command that, if it were possi ble, he would have visited every one of you. I would have liked nothing more than to have opened the event at Wiesbaden Army Airfield to all. Unfortunately, because of facility space and a very busy schedule, it was not possible on this trin

Nevertheless, I can't express how hon ored I was that so many soldiers and other members of the community got the chance to hear firsthand from our commander in chief how proud and apprecia tive he is of our service to the United States of America and the significant role we play in the global war on terror.

The success of the visit was the direct result of many hours of teamwork by the soldiers, civilians and family members in the Wiesbaden military community. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each one of you for your dedication and professionalism.

God bless you and God bless America Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey Commander, 1st Armored Division Wiesbaden, Germany

Living in 'Hainerberg Landfill'

I find it shameful that it takes the first lady of the United States to clean up my neighborhood

I live in the Hainerberg Landfill Housing Area in the 221st Base Support Battalion's Wiesbaden community. My family has lived in filth for sixth months and has suffered through the embarrassment of bringing friends and family through litter-lined streets to visit our apartment.

I have seen a whole variety of disgusting trash along our sidewalks, such as bloody tampons; brown, dirty diapers; maggot-infested, spoiled food; and count-

less bottles and wrappers. Recently, the housing chain of concern has placed fevered effort into making the area look better. Why haven't we seen such interest in the past six months?

I want to encourage everyone living in Hainerberg housing to keep our community looking like a nice place to live.

Here's my suggestions to help:

■ Put your garbage or recycling in a

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container; throwing a bag on the ground, on top of a container, or off of your balcony is a sure way to have litter strewn everywhere.

- Put your trash cans away; cans left out collect litter and get knocked over. ■ Teach your children how to be good
- neighbors. A great majority of the trash comes from the route that students walk to and from lunch. ■ To the leaders of the 221st BSB:
- Please enforce the standards you have crafted. Please continue to take as much interest and put forth as much effort toward our neighborhood as you have in the past week.
- Stop changing the garbage and recycling pick-up dates every month, and notify us when they do change.
- When the first lady of the Barta family, my daughter's great-grandmother, comes to visit in the spring, I hope our neighborhood looks as good as it does

Capt. Jeff Barta Wiesbaden, Germany

Wife, mom of 11, is his hero

Stripes recently published an article about Johnnie Chennault, a naval reservist with 11 children who is going to Iraq for seven or eight months ("Missing the little things," Feb. 14. Mideast edition).

I would like to tell readers about my hero. My wife. Patricia, has taken care of our 11 children (all ours) for the past 14 months while I have been in Iraq

She has supported me and our cause wholeheartedly, while giving each of our children the time and attention I could not in my absence. She has braved broken cars, washers and refrigerators. She has dealt with our family's finances. She has helped the little ones understand why Daddy can't be there for them when they are sad or scared, because he's helping the people in Iraq.

She hasn't complained or felt her sacrifice and contribution were any greater than anyone else's.

I get to wear a combat patch for the rest of my career, but my wife is the true hero. I just thought readers might like to know Maj. David Miller

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Armor article misleading

As I read the article "Protecting U.S. troops, convoys with armor" in the Valentine's Day issue, I was surprised at how skewed the percention of vehicle armoring is.

The article claims that only 1 out of 4 ehicles has "hillbilly armor." I suppose vehicles has "hillbilly armor." I suppose this is possible if you count Abrams and Bradleys, but that is deceiving. The question is: Of the vehicles that were originally unarmored, how many now have factory-manufactured armor kits and how many are "hillbilly" style?

As a convoy commander in the Sunni Triangle for a year now, I saw that maybe 1 out of 4 vehicles had factory-manufactured add-on armor, leaving three-quarters with "hillbilly armor." Of my transportation company's 75 vehicles, only our 11 Humvees had factory kits; that is 85 percent "hillbilly.

Don't get me wrong, that's better than when we got here, but a long way from where the article claims

The article also discusses how armor is removed in Kuwait to be reused. In our out-processing, only our door panels were salvageable, the rest was scrap. Why not leave the trucks here? We just got them right, after a year of trying.

The underlying issue is this: Army leadership has failed to learn. Since World War II, right through Vietnam, soldiers have used "hillbilly armor." There are even Army field manuals that address how to do it. Yet, for all of this, we never realize that

there is a requirement for some level of protection on all pieces of military equipment. It isn't too hard to imagine that if you go to war in a vehicle, someone might try to blow it up or shoot you. Yes, we are buying armor kits now, but

every vehicle needs to be designed with this in mind. Will this generation of Army leadership really learn from this experience and change things?

Capt. T.L. Sharratt

Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq

What a love story

Thanks for telling the story in the Feb. 17 Mideast edition about Joey and Jayme Bozik's love story ("Triple amputee copes with life after war"; Feb. 18, Europe edition). What an example of strength on his part, commitment on her part, and their love for each other for all of us to remember as we love our wives It truly blessed my heart and encouraged me as I read the story. With so much negative news, it was a great story and I hope they are able to read this letter. Steve Shenk

Baghdad

Doonesbury Flashbacks







OPINION

Sharon goes against grain for greater good

BY DEREK CHARLES CATSAM History News Service

sraeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon the arch-conservative old warrior from the Likud Party, has undertaken something that no one would have thought possible: He has been engaging in serious negotiations with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

It was Sharon's visit to the al-Aqsa mosque as opposition leader in September 2000 that precipitated the Palestinian declaration of intifada that has raged for more than four years. That Sharon is now at the center of not only quelling that storm but of working toward an agreement with the Palestinian Authority seems like the ulti mate historical irony. But we shouldn't be surprised. History provides some precedent for this apparent transformation

Sharon is working toward complete Is raeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip, including the removal of Israeli settlers. For most observers of the crisis in the Middle East, Sharon would have been the last

to go, but few would

person they expected to challenge the There's still a long way settlers, make nice with the Palestinian Authority and take have predicted Sharon serious steps toward a long-term peace that would eventually result in a Pales-

tinian state. There's still a long way to go, but few would have predicted Sharon to make it even this far.

Two historical comparisons spring to mind when one considers the path that Sharon unexpectedly walks today: The first is President Nixon's trip to China in 1972. The other? South African President F.W. de Klerk's freeing of Nelson Mandela and his subsequent negotiations leading to the end of apartheid in the early 1990s. The two men engaged in historical transformations at key moments, and they did so in

ways that their constituencies never would have envisioned when they rose to office. Sharon seems to be following their exam-

Consider this: All three heads of state -Nixon, de Klerk and Sharon — came from the conservative wings of their countries' most prominent conservative parties Their opponents inevitably painted them as reactionaries. Nixon was the Cold War hatchet man who had enabled the worst excesses of McCarthyism. De Klerk came from a National Party apparatus that had cracked down on anti-apartheid resistance in the 1980s. When he came to power he was perceived as being to the right of his predecessor, P.W. Botha. Sharon represented the Israeli settler community better than any politician in recent memory.

Yet despite their reputations, they engaged in liberal change that other leaders could not have accomplished. It's almost a cliché that "only Nixon could have gone to China." What this means is that had a liberal Democrat, say George McGovern, an-

nounced that he intended to do so, his opponents would have painted him as being soft on communism and worse Recause Nixon's anti-commucredentials were impeccable, he

to make it even this far. could engage with the Chinese (and pursue the subsequent détente with the Soviets) without such fears. His record as an ardent Cold Warrior prevented anyone's impugning his motives.

Similarly, only a staunch member of South Africa's National Party, the party that had implemented and perfected apartheid, could have engaged with Nelson Mandela and lifted the ban on the African National Congress and other opposition organizations. De Klerk's standing as leader of a right-wing establishment was essential to



effecting the transition from apartheid to nonracial democracy. The Nationalists would have swallowed up a more moder-

All of which brings us back to Ariel Sharon. We can see hints of Nixon and de Klerk in the wily Likud prime minister Sharon came from his party's conservative wing, much as did de Klerk. He had a history of active support for Israel's settler com-munities in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

In the eyes not only of many liberal Israelis, but of the rest of the world, Sharon was retrograde, even less likely to withdraw settlers from Gaza, negotiate with the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization for a two-state solution and ally with the Labor Party in the face of conservative Likud opposition than Nixon was to travel to China or de Klerk was to seek rapprochement with Mandela.

Perhaps, then, history can teach us a lesson as we watch events unfold in the Middle East. Sometimes, having earned political capital within their own factions, savvy politicians are capable of using that capital to create space to operate in ways both unanticipated and seemingly against the

Many are suspicious of Sharon because he was, in their minds, the last person likely to bring about peace and promote a two-state solution in the lands between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

It may end up being less ironic than peonle think if he instead becomes the only man capable of doing so. Given the precedents of Nixon and de Klerk, we have here not an irony but the grasping of a historic opportunity.

Derek Charles Catsam is an assistant professor of history at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa.

Congress must help clear the fog on interrogations and Justice in establishing procedures for vices personnel vulnerable to the same

By LINDSEY GRAHAM AND JANE HARMAN

hortly after Sept. 11, 2001, President Bush concluded that al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations would not be entitled to protections provided by the Geneva Conventions. At the same time, however, he rightly empha-sized that the policy of our government would be humane treatment for all those who fall into U.S. hands.

We strongly believe it is imperative to have a coherent, flexible and aggressive set of interrogation procedures, allowing our nation to acquire timely and valuable intelligence. This must be done, however, without forfeiting the moral authority that is inherent to our nation and essential to winning the global war on terrorism.

Unfortunately, some made early efforts to limit the definition of torture to acts "causing pain that is consistent with death or organ failure." This, in combination with the inconsistent interpretation of other pertinent laws, started us off on the wro track. It has also left our military personnel subject to prosecution and reprimand from their respective branches of service

It is clear to us that the events at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, as well as the allega-tions of abuse at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, must be thoroughly addressed, and reforms enacted. Any attempt to "play cute" with international, domestic or military laws inevitably puts our own troops at risk, leaving our armed sertype of treatment if captured. It has been proved that torture or other inhuman conduct as a technique of information-gathering is flawed and often produces unreliable

We believe it's time for a comprehensive review of our interrogation techniques. In addition, we must provide better legal guidance to those responsible for interrogations, possibly through the enactment of a new federal law. We envision such a law as requiring a collaborative effort between Congress and the denartments of Defense

the use of coercive interrogation techniques. This would help to ensure that we gather needed information without giving America a black eve. Interrogations constitute a vital tool in elic-

iting intelligence in the war on terrorism. Unfortunately, the gaps in our laws have left our interrogators without clear guidelines on how to elicit that vital intelligence At the end of the day, this war will not be

won by military action alone. The recent democratic elections in Iraq, combined with the successful elections in Afghani-

stan, signal historic changes in the region We must empower moderate forces that are willing to fight the extremists. Behavior that appears to undermine the rule of law will undermine these efforts. The fog of war is thick enough. It's time

for Congress to acknowledge there is also a fog of law - and consider a legal framework for interrogation procedures

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is a member of the Senate Armed Services and Judiciary committees and a colonel in the Air Force Reserve. Rep. Jane Harman of California is the ranking Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Mallard Fillmore





By BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

Adjust maintenance for wintertime habits

The owner's manual for my 2004 Pontiac Vibe lists two maintenance schedules. The long-trip plan calls for the engine oil and filter to be changed every 7,500 miles (or 12 months), while the short-trip maintenance schedule sets a 3,000-mile interval for this service. Although my car meets all the requirements for the long-trip oil-change interval, the dealership where I take

it strongly recshort-trip

schedule the winter, because according to the service manager, the winters in Maine cause oil to break down more quickly, and this can lead to engine damage if the oil is not changed every 3,000 miles. Is the dealership just looking for more business, or is it correct?

TOM: Yes, and yes. Of course it's looking for more business. But harsh winter conditions can be harder on your oil.

RAY: Most manufacturers now recommend 7,500-mile a oil-change interval for what they call "normal" service. That's the way most people use their cars including you, Wayn

TOM: Then they have what's usually called an "extreme duty" or "hard service" interval of 3,000 miles for people who make their engines work the hardest. These are folks who use their cars as taxicabs, drive on dirt roads a lot or tow trailers frequently. Normally, spending a

winter in Maine is not considered extreme duty. Not for the car, any-

way. For me it would be. RAY: But what tends to happen in the winter is that people drive places they usually don't drive. In the summer, you might walk 10 minutes to the store to pick up a quart of vegan peppermint pat-ties. But when it's 2 degrees out with a 50 mph wind, and your thighs freeze together after your first 10 steps

Click and Clack bly decide to take the car. And when the car is used for lots of short trips in cold weather, the engine never really warms up

you'd proba-

TOM: Until an engine warms up and reaches full operating tem-perature, it doesn't burn its fuel efficiently. That means there's unburned gasoline in the cylinders. Some of that gasoline makes its way past the piston rings and into the crankcase, where it mixes with the oil. That mixture makes

for a lousy lubricant. RAY: So, it's not the winter tem-peratures themselves that damage the oil, it's the type of driving

people tend to do in the winter. TOM: If you make a lot of short trips like that in the winter, then it might make sense to change the oil a little more frequently. We recom mend 5,000-mile intervals to all but the most extreme drivers.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features

More couples choosing separate bank accounts

BY SHELLENBARGER

The Wall Street Journal

Mary Glenn readily changed her name when she got married. Although she and her husband share nearly everything and are raising two kids together, there's one thing Glenn will never give up: her own checking account.

Glenn splits the household expenses with her husband but keeps a separate account for her own autonomy, security and peace of mind. "It's so freeing to be your own person, and not feel like someone is looking over your shoulder," says the Collevville. Texas, software executive

For better or worse, setups like Glenn's are increasingly common. Bucking traditional notions about the marital union, research suggests nearly half of married couples now keep separate bank accounts. A survey of 1,200 households by the Raddon Financial Group, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., a research and marketing concern, shows 48 percent of married couples have two or more checking accounts, up from 39 percent in 2001.

One reason seems to be a growing distrust between men and women on money matters. Another, deeper change is under way too: a cultural trend toward more independent banking behavior among men and women alike, says Tony Ward-Smith, a consultant to credit unions

The increase in two-income households, the high divorce rate and couples' tendency to marry at older ages are among the reasons for growth in separate accounts, Ward-Smith says. Also, more couples are part of stepfamilies with multiple lay-ers of financial responsibility, including child sup-

Many couples' lives are too complex for a joint account, Jean Lown, a Logan, Utah, college professor, says she and her husband had trouble sharing a checkbook because she carried it with her, and he sometimes forgot to record expenditures, causing tension and overdrafts. Separate accounts solved the problem, she says. Years later, "we are still happily married and using the same system.

Even couples who pool funds are taking self-protective steps.

Jenn Lynch, a Portland, Ore., product manager, believes that "nothing says trust and partnership like joint credit cards and a single joint checking account." However, she and her husband, Bill, exchanged credit reports before pooling their assets, "to make sure there was nothing funny on there,"

A growing number of financial advisers are recommending that couples keep three accounts — a joint one for household bills, and separate ones for personal needs. For a joint account, most couples pony up a percentage of household expenses equal to their share of household income; if the wife makes \$40,000 and the husband \$60,000, she would pay 40 percent of joint expenses.

Over time, many couples decide separate accounts are a hassle.

Frank Pittman, an Atlanta psychiatrist and author, says he counselled one couple who were so busy allocating expenses between their separate accounts that they were "constantly preoccupied with small amounts of money. They were losing all the pleasure in life." He advised them to stop nickel-and-diming each other, pool their assets and try deciding jointly how to have some fun.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

High Low Name Last				52 WY
	Chg		K Chg	
10,868.07 9,708.40 Dow Jones Industrials 10,673.79	+62.59	+.59	-1.01	+.6
3,823.96 2,743.46 Dow Jones Transportation 3,611.74	+71.59	+2.02	-4.91	+25.85
358.20 259.08 Dow Jones Utilities 345.38	+2.47	+.72	+3.11	+26.1
7,317.79 6,211.33 NYSE Composite 7,243.28	+32.11	+.45	09	+8.55
1,505.26 1,150.74 Amex Index 1,497.89	+8.35	+.56	+4.43	+20.75
2,191.60 1,750.82 Nasdaq Composite 2,031.25	+.93	+.05	-6.63	+.43
1,217.90 1,060.72 S&P 500 1,190.80	+6.64	+.56	-1.74	+4.12
668.18 548.29 S&P MidCap 654.25	+3.63	+.56	-1.37	+10.1
656.11 515.90 Russell 2000 620.54	+2.61	+.42	-4.76	+7.17
12,024.36 10,268.52 DJ Wilshire 5000 11,725.35	+60.58	+.52	-2.05	+5.3
NYSE AMEX		Nas	DAQ	
MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MOR	RE) MOST	Астіу	E (\$1 or	R MORE)
Name Vol (00) Last Chg Name Vol (00) Last C	Chg Name	Vol (00)) Lasi	t Chg
Pfizer 392310 26.3128 SPDR 659616 119.45 +	+.85 Nasd100T	93114	2 36.94	+.05
Lucent 220827 3.19 SemiHTr 349446 33.06 -	23 Intel	907935	23.31	4
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GenFler: 194759 35.27 - 88 SP Fnc1 85488 29.62 +				
GenElec 194759 35.2708 SP Fncl 85488 29.62 + NortelN If 185726 2.94 +.04 IShRx2000 84535 123.83 +	+.73 Cisco	58587	5 17.28	
GenElec 194759 35.2788 SP Fncl 85488 29.62 + NortelN IF 185726 2.94 +.04 ISNRs2000 84535 123.83 + ExxonMbl 184797 59.42 +1.17 ISNBspan 82279 10.55	+.73 Cisco 08 JDS Uniph	56536	1.91	1 +.00
GenElec 194759 35.2708 SP Fncl 85488 29.62 + Norteln III 185726 2.94 +.04 ISNRs2000 84535 123.83 + ExxonMbl 184797 59.42 +1.17 ISNLapan 82279 10.55 - Citiorn 165452 48.38 +.43 GreyWolf 63704 6.23 +	+.73 Cisco	58587: 56536; 40549: 39455;	1.91	+.0

KEY DE	FEI	ISE	Sto	CKS		Кеу Мити	al Fu	NDS	
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Alliast Technosystem Armor Holding Boeing Bo	 1.00 .07 1.44 .88 .50 .48 .83 .50 1.00 .92 .80 .66 .10 1.40 1.76	16 16 23 15 19 17 22 27 22 21 17 41 23 34 24 24 30 18	68.28 39.74 52.72 44.93 53.96 103.04 35.27 43.10 64.51 37.38 70.82 58.55 52.17 38.25 58.51 76.64 99.75	31 +.19 +.57 07 38 -1.11 06 +.11 12 +.09 +.12 +.16 -1.10 12 +.14 +.15 +.16 +.11 100 11 +.11	+4.4 -15.5 -20.3 -8.9 -1.5 -3.4 +3.4 +5.6 -1.5 +18.9 +3.5 +3.8 -3.5	Flédish Inwett-Goolac Flédish Inwett-Goolac Anner Cechany Inre Ultra Anner Cechany Inre Ultra Flédish Inwett-Goolac Anner Cechany Inre Ultra Flédish Inwett-A Mge Flédish Inwett-A Mge Flédish Inwett-Ball Flédish Inwett-Usa Flédish Adviser T- Edirl Soudder Funds S- Groines Fledish Adviser T- Edirl Flédish Adviser T- Edward Fledish S- Fledish S- Fledish Fledish S- Fledish S- Fledish Fledish S- Fledish S- Fledish Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish Fledish Fledish S- Fledish Fledish Fledish S- Fledish F	37.47 53.67 28.36 42.21 19.26 16.05 33.36 22.34 11.12 28.82 28.26 21.59 12.71 26.64 17.74 15.22 12.98 10.26	+.21 +.110 +.24 +.12 +.03 +.15 +.10 +.02 +.13 +.09 +.09 +.09 +.00 +.01 +.01 +.01 +.01 +.01 +.01 +.01	电电影电子电影电影电影 电自己登记的人通知的形式

EXCHANGE RATES
Military rates
Euro costs\$1,35598
Euro costs
British pound
Jananese ven (Feb. 25)
South Korean won (Feb. 24)977.00
Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar) 0.37698
Bahrain (Dinar) 0.37698 British pound \$1.9095
Canada (Dollar)1.2374
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Egypt (Pound)5.8089
Euro\$1.3226/0.7561
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7998
Hungary (Forint) 182.87
Iceland (Krona) 59.44
Israel (Shekel) 4.3554
Janan (Yen) 104.85
Kuwait (Dinar) 0.29190
Norway (Krone) 5.88
Philippines (Peso)54.64
Singapore (Dollar)1.6263
South Korea (Won)
Thailand (Baht) 38.34
Thailand (Baht) 38.34 Turkey (New Lira)
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance
ing facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
Netherlands and the United Kingdom
For nonlocal currency exchange rates
For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-
ny), check with your local military bank-

which is represented in id. and the euro, which is

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.51
Discount rate	3.51
Federal funds market rate	2.51
3-month bill	2.63
30-year bond	4.65
Sources: The Associated Press, B.	ank o
Discount rate	2.5i 2.5i 2.6: 4.6i

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Financial help for kids

NEW YORK - Don't cave in to your teenager's pleas for a credit card or prepaid "allowance" card.

They're just not ready for plas-tic, says Janet Bodnar. executive editor of Kiplinger's Personal Finance. She offers a timeline for your child's financial development: Start by teaching your preschooler to save his or her money. Kids this young literally need to see their money, so don't head for the bank just yet. "They think if their money goes in, they're never going to get it back again," explains Bodnar. Instead, keep your child's savings in a jar or piggybank. Age 8: Open a savings ac-

count. By now, your child is old enough to understand that a bank will keep his or her money

safe until it is needed. Age 16: Open a checking account with an ATM/debit card. "Kids should have checking accounts when they get their first part-time job in high school," Bodnar says. "The key is that it's their money they have access

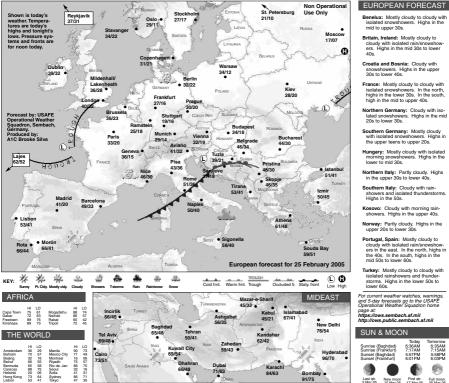
to." Sometimes banks are reluctant to open a checking account for a minor, so be sure to ask about joint or custodial accounts

Resist the prepaid credit cards marketed to this age group, warns Bodnar. "They're marketed for parents as a tool to teach the kids how to manage their money," she says. "Young kids don't really make a distinc tion between a prepaid card, a credit card or a debit card. They don't get it. They don't see it as a money-management tool. It's not their money. It's still mom and dad's money."

Age 18: If your child does not yet have a checking account, open one. It's a good preparation for college, and the best way for you to send him or her money in

Age 21 or 22: Let your child get a credit card. Of course, you can't prevent him or her from applying after age 18, but Bodnar says a college senior is more prepared for credit. "When kids get credit cards younger in college, it's too much of a temptation - the idea of, 'Mom and Dad will bail me out

if I get into a problem.



France: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated snowshowers. In the north, highs in the lower 30s. In the south,

rs. Highs in the mid

cloudy with isolated rain/snowshow-ers in the east. In the north, highs in

5:57PM 6:01PM

First qtr. 17 Mar 05 New moon 10 Mar 05 Full moon 25 Mar 05 THE UNITED STATES TODAY

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

73/51

PCkty

33 28 50 79 60 53 41 58 62 40 54 80 52 59 31 59 34 55 56 44 64 85 93 46 54 65 80 47 33 33 59 60 2214 23 67 44 32 30 35 48 31 31 70 30 42 13 44 72 29 35 50 28 34 35 18 33 36 65 35 22 17 38 33 POIS) CIS) POIS) POIS) Rain CIS POIS) POIS

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39 City 43 City 52 POils 47 POIls 47 POIls 47 POIls 47 POIls 48 POIls 49 POIls 49 POIls 40 POIls 50 PO

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91/75



Scheduled to ETS or PCS Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



PAGE 18 STARS AND S

Man gunned down

CA SACRAMENTO — A 23-year-old man was gunned down in broad day-light while sitting in his car at a busy intersection Sunday in what a sheriff's spokesman called an "exe cution "

Sacramento County sheriff's investigators are looking for possible links to several recent gang-related

shootings, Sgt. R.L. Davis said. Authorities said two men got out of a silver 1997 Toyota Camry, went around a bus filled with 16 children from a church and fired up to 18 rounds into Pra Vang's

Witnesses told authorities the assailants, described as Asian men wearing red and black clothing, fled in the Toyota, which was carry

ing two other passengers. Vang died at the scene, Davis said. No one else was injured, and no other vehicle was hit, Davis

Coffee Pot dilemma

PA BEDFORD — The owners of a coffeepot-shaped luncheonette are hoping someone perks up and figures out a new use for the historic structure.

About a 18 months ago, a former owner donated the 1927-era Koontz Coffee Pot to the Bedford County Fair Board. The board moved the notable building to the front entrance of its fairgrounds and spent thousands of dollars to renovate it

But now, the board isn't sure

what to do with it.
"We're just letting it be known that if people have suggestions, we're open to them," said board president John Holbert.

Until 2003, the Coffee Pot sat on U.S. Route 30 — one of America's first highways, also known as the Lincoln Highway. Bert Koontz, a local businessman, built the structure as a novelty luncheonette designed to draw customers to the service station next door.

Some have suggested using it for a hot dog stand, a retail shop or an art gallery.

Olga Herbert, the director of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor, thinks the Coffee Pot would be a great place to sell coffee cups and coffee beans

Fleet converting fuel

TN CHATTANOOGA—All diesel vehicles in the city-owned fleet will begin using biodiesel next week in an effort to improve air quality. Regular diesel fuel is mixed with animal fats and vegetable oils to produce biodiesel. State officials already agreed to re duce interstate highway speed limits in Hamilton County to lessen pollutants from diesel engines

Pella opening new plant

MACOMB — Pella Corp., an Iowa-based window and door maker, said it will build a manufacturing plant in Macomb, creating 480 jobs. Up to \$7 million in state grants and tax incentives heln launch 275,000-square-foot factory that's scheduled to open in March 2006. Pella will produce a new line of historic-looking windows at the plant.

Student guilty of murder

TX EDINBURG — A 17-year-old has pleaded guilty to stabbing to death a fellow



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

student as they waited for their parents to pick them up from an after-hours school event last March

Jason C. Gonzalez pleaded guilty Tuesday to stabbing 15-year-old Li anna Nicole Olmeda 15 times out side Pharr-San Juan-Alamo North High School after a drama competition on March 29, 2004.

Gonzalez was to stand trial for Olmeda's death, but because of his guilty plea, a jury will determine Gonzalez's punishment. The jury will hear testimony from police officers, teachers, witnesses and family members.

Gonzalez is being tried as a minor because he was 16 at the

time of the murder. Prosecuting Assistant District Attorney Juan Villescas asked jurors to give Gonzalez the maximum of 40 years in prison.

Defense attorney Eddy Trevino told jurors Gonzalez suffered mental problems since age 12, including attention deficit hyperactive disorder and depression. After the slaying, Gonzalez was diagnosed with Aspergers syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism.

Shellfish harvest ban on

VA GLOUCESTER — A state ban on shellfish harvesting from six tributaries of the Severn River was set to begin Tuesday, following the discovery of high levels of bacteria from human or animal

The state ordered the ban last



Back to best friends Spc. Amy Egbert of Grand Forks. N.D., and the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion, is reunited with her dog, Angel, at Hector International Airport in Fargo, N.D.

Egbert and her husband, Sgt. Dallas Egbert, both returned to North Dakota after serving in Iraq.

month for Whitaker, Free School and Sterling creeks, as well as their tributaries on the Severn's northwest branch. On the Severn's southwest branch, Wil-letts Creek, Rowes Creek Holly Bush Creek and their tributaries were also made off-limits to shellfish

Recent water samples from those tributaries showed excessive levels of coliform, and eating shellfish from the waterways could lead to illness, state officials said.

Commercial fishermen don't work on those tributaries. But Tim Fearington, field director of the Virginia Division of Shellfish Sanitation's Norfolk office, said homeowners on the affected waterways had been advised not to harvest and eat shellfish.

Some people might have piers or docks in the creeks and use traps to grow oysters, he said.

The condemnations follow a Division of Shellfish Sanitation survey of 906 properties in the Severn watershed from February 2004 to April 2005 that identified 82 potential sources of pollutants.

The sources include livestock with direct access to creeks and ditches, homeowners with septic systems leaking effluent and washing machines that drain directly onto the ground or into ditches.

Bill would ban trap

RI PROVIDENCE — Legislation has been introduced that would ban a type of animal trap in Rhode Island

Currently, the leghold, steel-jawed trap can be used in the state, with a permit from the state Department of Environmental Management. The animal rights group Defenders of Animals wants to ban the traps, saying they maim pets and other animals, and could be dangerous to small children.

Similar traps have been banned in 90 countries, according to the

The bill was introduced by Rep. Joseph Trillo, of Warwick, on De-fenders of Animals' behalf.

No BO in the library!

CA SANTA BARBARA — County officials say people with body odor aren't welcome as library users. That means people who smell bad, including many homeless, can be denied service. Library Director Brian Reynolds said librarians will use their discre-

Bill benefits vets

CHEYENNE — Gov. Dave Freudenthal signed a bill that will make it easier for veterans to obtain an \$800 break on their property taxes. The previous law contained a list of wars and had to be updated after each conflict involving the U.S. military. The new law streamlines the nrocess so that veterans are automatically eligible

Officials using blogs

MINNEAPOLIS — Some elected and appointed officials are using Web logs to keep their constituents in the loop. The bloggers' topics range from redevelopment efforts to where a city manager was going on a winter getaway. Scott Neal, Eden Prairie city manager, says it's a way to reduce the disconnect between local government and its citizens.



Ten-vear-old Allie Billiot plays on a tire Out for a swing swing in Bayou Black, La.



Nick Sainato, of Morris Township. Big man in the vard N.J., straightens out the nose on a large snowman. Sainato and three friends built the 15-foot-plus snowman on Sainato's front yard.



Careful, they'll all want some

Alvin Spanske, 10, feeds a bird on Detroit's Belle Isle during a visit to the park with his grandparents.



While walking his two miniature sch Happy schnauzer zers along the north shore of Flathe Lake, Dave Handy watches one of the canines playfully leap into the air in



Bad collision

Wavne County, Ind., sheriff's deputies investigate a fatal crash between a car and train near Hagerstown. The driver of the car. according to evewitness reports. went around the crossing gates and was pushed several hundred feet.



Andrew Orbin leads bigger farm tractors down old U.S. 231 on Small, but still in front their way to McCutcheon High School near Lafavette. Ind. The students from McCutcheon drove their tractors to the school for National FFA Week.

Museum may get boost

CHARLESTON SC CHARLESTON -long-delayed black history

museum could get a much-needed boost this week if the City Council approves spending \$250,000 to launch a national fund-raising camnaign. The museum was first suggested by Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. five years ago. The original \$37 million price tag has increased to an estimated \$50 million, organizers say.

Court cashes in

PHILADELPHIA PA PHILADELA III.

3-year-old program that allows police to impound the cars of traffic scofflaws has helped turn a once financially strapped court into a cash cow.

President Judge Francis E. Kelly of the Philadelphia Traffic Court said not enough money was coming in to cover the court's expenses in 1990, with \$56 million owed and more than 174,000 arrest warrants unserved.

Last year, the court collected \$23.1 million, nearly five times its \$4.8 million budget. Court officials expect to collect even more money this year.

Law enforcement efforts were beefed up, but authorities credit 2002's Live Stop program for much of the turnaround. Under the program, police are allowed to seize cars stopped for traffic viola-

tions if the vehicle is unregistered or uninsured, or if the driver is not properly licensed. The nmgram has resulted in the impounding of 75,000 vehicles.

Last year, 27,000 vehicles were seized and nearly 15,000 released after the owners settled their outstanding tickets About 45 percent of the fines col-

lected at the court go to the city, 55 percent to the state

Nickel bingo now OK

OR KLAMATH FALLS — The folks who play bingo at the Klamath Basin Senior Citizen Center are no longer outlaws.

Five months ago, the Department of Justice contacted officials at the senior center after getting a complaint that bingo games were being played for cash.

Nickels, to be exact.

The senior center has a gambling license for the higher-stakes bingo program. But the Golden Age Club, which has about 200 members, is separate from the senior center and has never had a gaming license for its nickel-hingo operation. The Klamath County Board of

Commissioners last week amended the county's social gaming ordinance to include bingo, to the relief of the seniors who learned they've been playing an illegal game for the last two decades.

"Have fun with your bingo without the bureaucracy," Commission-er Bill Brown told an audience of about 20 seniors who came to support changing the rule.

Students clean up

MI ANN ARBOR — Some Uni-versity of Michigan students are cleaning up - in more ways than one.

for keeping their dormitory rooms presentable and available for tours by prospective students and their parents

Eighteen students in nine residence halls are participating in the Michigan Campus Day tour program, according to Randi Johnson, the university's housing outreach coordinator.

The rules for Campus Day participants technically don't require a clean room. Participants do, however, have to be dressed and out of bed if they are home, and must let tour groups see their room from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Displays of anything illegal, offensive or banned — like hot plates are forbidden.

Sophomores Aaron Bennick and Eric Romain are receiving \$100 each this semester to participate. Their room impressed Clark

Iverson, 44, of Royal Oak, who was on the Friday tour with his 18-year-old son, Geoffrey, a high school senior who has been admitted to Michigan.

"It's cleaner than a 15-year-old's room," Clark Iverson said

Banks hit by forgers

NC HIGH POINT — A group of forgers who bilked two High Point banks out of nearly \$125,000 on one day last month is suspected in similar schemes that area banks more than \$250,000 since December, Police say surveillance footage showed as many as 40 to 50 people cashed counterfeit payroll checks doctored to resemble those from a local business. The scenario has been reported in recent months at three banks in Thomasville and Davidson County.

Developer settles debts

PROVIDENCE - The devel-PROVIDENCE — The devel-oper who wants to buy the Westin Hotel in Providence will pay \$6.5 million to the state to settle debts left from the 1990s banking crisis. The deal with James Procaccianti was approved by a state committee Both sides said the settlement is unrelated to the Procaccianti Group's \$95.5 million high bid for the Westin.

County goes after city

DETROIT - Wayne Coun-MI DETROIT — wayne ty officials want Hamtramoverpayments, a burden the struggling city says it can't afford. The county says it overpaid Hamtramck for 15 years as part of an agreement that compensates the city for revenue lost in connection with the county jail. The error was discovered after the county's longtime accounting director retired

Trust land package sinks

PHOENIX — Efforts to hammer out a package of state trust land changes to benefit education funding, preservation of open space and planned development have foundered at the Legislature, officials said. Arizona has 9.3 million acres of trust land, awarded by the federal government at statehood. It must be used to benefit public schools and institutions.

They're getting cash payments Stories and photos from wire services

	AFRTS Television Schedule Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFR's Web site at http://myaln.dodmedia.oad.mil/							
				FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25				,
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley "Worms at Work" Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Movie "Midwives" (2001) Sissy Spacek. A midwife is charged	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy! Headline News	Nightline Headline News	College Basketball Arizona State at Washington. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals Easy Entertaining-Chiarello	Jeopardy! Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI)	with her patient's death.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Decorating Cents	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)	(:44) Movie ** "Suspect"	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block			The Look for Less	Pacific Report
11:00 11:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Stanley	(1987, Drama) Cher, Dennis Quaid, Liam Neeson, A public	(:17) General Hospital	The O.C. "The New Era"	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	E! News Live The King of Queens	The O.C. "The New Era"
12:00	Dora the Explorer	defender becomes involved with an overeager juror.	Headline News	Survivor: Palau	Primetime Thursday	College Basketball Marquette	That '70s Show	Survivor: Palau
12:30	The Wiggles	1	Judge Judy			at Cincinnati. (Taped)	Girlfriends	
13:00	Bob the Builder Tennis court.	Movie * * "Can't Hardly Wait" (1998) Jennifer Love He-	Today NBC Universal CEO	The Apprentice	Fox and Friends		Charmed "Just Harried"	The Apprentice
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI) Blue's Clues Blue is sad	witt High-school seniors flock	Bob Wright discusses autism.	Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Strong Medicine "Second	Pacific Report
14:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	to a wild graduation party.		The Tonight Show With Jay	rox and rinends	Sports Center	Opinion"	The Tonight Show With Jay
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:55) Movie * * 5 "Mumford"	Teacher's Pet (EI)	Leno	American Morning	College Basketball Gonzaga	Any Day Now "Home Girl"	Leno
15:30	Full House "Tough Love"	(1999) Loren Dean, Hope Davis, Patients flock to a psy-	What's New Scooby-Doo?	Late Show With David Letter-		at Portland. (Taped)		Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon "Snow Way Out" Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 3)	chologist with fake credentials.	Ozzy & Drix "Strepfinger" Codename: Kids Next Door	The Late Late Show With	CNN Live Today		Third Watch "Unfinished Busi- ness"	The Late Late Show With
17:00	Doug (EI)	Naomi Campbell Revealed	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Teenage Waste-	Craig Ferguson
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Dennis Miller	1		land"	Dennis Miller
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Hollywood Backstories	ESPNews		FOX News	Motorcycle Racing THQ AMA World Supercross Grand Prix	The Simpsons	
18:30	Rugrats First haircut. All Grown Up	Entertainment Tonight Movie * * "Men in Black II"	AFN Evening News The O.C. "The New Era"	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	Primetime Thursday	College Gamenight	Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann
19:00 19:30	Dave the Barbarian	(2002, Science Fiction) Tommy	THE O.G. THE NEW CID	Access Hollywood	r illinedille illursuay	Sports Center	American Iuui	Access Hollywood
20:00	Danny Phantom	Lee Jones, Will Smith.	Survivor: Palau	Headline News	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture	Boston Public "Chapter Forty-	Headline News
20:30	Drake & Josh	(:43) Movie *** "The Fami-		Entertainment Studios.com	1	Match Play Championship Third Day, From La Costa Re-	Seven"	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	That's So Raven Phil of the Future "Phillin" In"	ly Man" (2000, Comedy-Dra- ma) Nicolas Cage, Tea Leoni. A	The Apprentice	Good Morning America	Studio B With Shepard Smith	sort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif.	Stephen King's Kingdom Hospital Spectral forces haunt	Good Morning America
21:30	Switched!	man gets a glimpse of the life	Headline News			(Same-day Tape)	the halls of a hospital built on	
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe	that could have been his.	The Tonight Show With Jav		Your World With Neil Cavuto		the site of a mill fire.	
23:00	The Cosby Show	Movie *5 "The Fan" (1996,	Leno	Oobi	Lester Holt Live		Daily Show-Jon Stewart	Oobi
23:30	Home Improvement	Suspense) Robert De Niro.	Late Show-Letterman	Clifford's Puppy Days (EI)			Blind Date	Clifford's Puppy Days (EI)
				SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2				
00:00	Doug (EI) Rocket Power	(11:00) Movie * 5 "The Fan" (1996) Robert De Niro	Late Show-Letterman Access Hollywood	All Grown Up Powerpuff Girls!	Headline News NBC Nightly News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	All Grown Up Dave the Barbarian
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	(:08) Movie *** "A Sol-	4 Qtrs	Danny Phantom	ABC World News Tonight		American Idol	Danny Phantom
1:30	Rugrats	dier's Story" (1984, Drama) Howard E. Rollins Jr., Adoloh		Drake & Josh	CBS Evening News	NBA Shootaround		Drake & Josh
2:00	All Grown Up	Caesar, Denzel Washington.	Motorcycle Racing THO AMA	The Mummy "How!"	The NewsHour With Jim	NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Indiana Pacers	Boston Public "Chapter Forty- Seven"	That's So Raven
2:30 3:00	Dave the Barbarian Danny Phantom	Movie * * "Men in Black II"	World Supercross Grand Prix. Boxing Friday Night Fights	Degrassi: Next Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes	From Conseco Fieldhouse in	Stephen King's Kingdom	Switched! Radio Free Roscoe
3:00	Drake & Josh	(2002, Science Fiction) Tommy	Fernely Feliz vs. Terry Smith.	American Adventurer	naminy & Comes	Indianapolis. (Live)	Hospital Spectral forces haunt	American Adventurer
4:00	That's So Raven	Lee Jones, Will Smith.	(Live)	Headline News	Headline News		the halls of a hospital built on the site of a mill fire	Headline News
4:30	Phil of the Future "Phillin' In"	(:43) Movie ** * "The Fami-		NBA Basketball Minnesota	Nightly Business Report	NBA Basketball Detroit Pis-		NBA Basketball Minnesota
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	ly Man" (2000, Comedy-Dra- ma) Nicolas Cage, Tea Leoni. A	Headline News ESPNews	Timberwolves at Seattle Son- ics. From the KeyArena in Seat-	Lou Dobbs Tonight	tons at Los Angeles Lakers. From Staples Center in Los An-	Breathingspace Yoga Caribbean Workout	Timberwolves at Seattle Son- ics. From the KeyArena in Seat-
5:30 6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	man gets a glimpse of the life that could have been his	Headline News	tle. (Live)	Larry King Live	geles. (Live)	Body Shaping	tle. (Live)
6:30	Blue's Clues "Let's Boogie"	that could have been his.	Headline News		Larry King Live		Every Woman	
7:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie ★★ "The Great Gats-	Oobi	ESPNews	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	SportsCenter	Beautiful Homes-Estates	ESPNews
7:30	Amazing Animal Videos	by" (2000) Mira Sorvino, Toby Stenhens A mysterious million-	Clifford's Puppy Days (EI)	WWE Raw			Curb Appeal	WWE Raw
8:00 8:30	Lilo & Stitch "Slushy" Teamo Supremo (EI)	aire pines for a socialite.	All Grown Up Dave the Barbarian	Navy/Marine Corps News	BET Nightly News Tavis Smiley	Real Sports	Landscapers' Challenge Weekend Warriors	Navv/Marine Corps News
9:00	Static Shock "Parent Trap"	(8:49) Movie ★★5 "Wolf"	Danny Phantom	Access Hollywood	Nightline	NASCAR Racing Craftsman	Clean House	Access Hollywood
9:30	Winx Club (EI)	(1994, Horror) Jack Nicholson. A wolf bite gives an editor a	Drake & Josh	1 '	Headline News	Truck Series American Rac- ing Wheels 200. From Califor-		
10:00	Teen Titans "Aftershock"	A worr one gives an editor a horrific new lease on life.	That's So Raven	Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews	ing wheels 200. From Callor- nia Speedway in Fontana, Calif.	BBQ With Bobby Flay	Headline News
10:30 11:00	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turt. Dragonball GT "Curtain Call"	Movie *** "Patton"	Switched! Focus on the Force	ESPNews George Lopez	The O'Reilly Factor	(Taped)	\$40-a-Day Jackie Collins Presents	ESPNews According to Jim
11:00	Justice League	(1970, Biography) George C.	American Adventurer	George Lopez Half & Half	me o nellly racion	Sports Center	vacare Collins Presents	Half & Half
12:00	Teen Kids News (EI)	Scott, Karl Malden, Stephen Young. An account of Gen.	Access Hollywood	Meet My Folks "The Schmidts"	Dateline NBC		101 Most Unforgettable SNL	Wife Swap "Harris/Van Noy"
12:30	Cyberchase (EI)	George S. Patton's colorful		(Part 1 of 2)			Moments	
13:00	Trading Space: Boy-Girl Scout's Safari (EI)	WWII career.	WWE Raw	Law & Order "The Dead Wives" Club"	CNN Saturday Morning	NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Indiana Pacers	The Blues "Red, White and Blues"	Law & Order "The Dead Wives Club"
13:30	Planet's Funniest Animals	(:09) Movie +++ "Harry Pot-	According to Jim	Headline News	Economy Watch	From Conseco Fieldhouse in		Headline News
14:00	Wild America	(:09) Movie ** "Harry Pot- ter and the Chamber of Se-	Half & Half	Saturday Night Live	Constity Water	Indianapolis.	The Blues "Piano Blues" Clint	Saturday Night Live
15:00	The Most Extreme "Oddities"	crets" (2002, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma	Wife Swap "Harris/Van Noy"	1	CNN Saturday Morning	SportsCenter	Eastwood shares his passion for piano blues.	1 ' '
15:30	Wrinkled frog does pushups.	Watson, A malevolent force			D. II 4 D			M
16:00	Hercules: The Legendary Journeys "The Enforcer"	threatens the students at Hog- warts.	Law & Order "The Dead Wives" Club"	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.	Bulls and Bears Cavuto on Business	SportsCenter	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.
17:00	Doug "Beebe Goes Broke"	Movie ** * "Cheaters"	Headline News	The Entertainers	Forbes	College GameDay	Fear Factor	The Entertainers
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	(2000) Jeff Daniels, Jena Mal-	Navy/Marine Corps News	1	Cashin' In			
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	one. A scandal arises out of a high-school academic contest.	SportsCenter	College Basketball Providence	CNN Live Saturday	Real Sports	What Not to Wear "Kathy" A	College Basketball Providence
18:30	Rugrats First bike. Movie * * "Hey Arnold! The	Movie ★★% "Unbreakable"	Wire to Wire	at Syracuse. (Live)	Weekend Live With Tony	College Backethall Torms to	hairstylist lacks style.	at Syracuse. (Live)
19:00 19:30	Movie * * "Hey Arnold! The Movie" (2002, Comedy) Voices	Movie **: "Unbreakable" (2000, Suspense) Bruce Willis.	Wire to Wire College Basketball Kentucky	1	Snow	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	THE DECRETORETE	1
20:00	of Spencer Klein.	A train-crash survivor discovers	at Alabama. (Live)	Real Sports	Wall Street Journal		Tru Calling Tru pursues a seri-	Real Sports
20:30	Movie * * "102 Dalmatians"	an extraordinary talent.			Army Newswatch		al killer on St. Valentine's Day.	
21:00	(2000, Adventure) Glenn Close, loan Gruffudd, Alice Evans.	(:04) Movie *x "Red Planet" (2000) Val Kilmer Carrie-Anne		Headline News	Next at CNN	PGA Golf WGC Accenture	Strong Medicine	Headline News
21:30	American Idol	Moss, Marooned astronauts	(:45) College Basketball Con- necticut at Pittsburgh. (Live)	Hour of Power	FOX News	Match Play Championship Third Day, From La Costa Re-	Friends	Hour of Power
22:00	American Idol	struggle to survive on Mars.		Celebration of Victory Coral Ridge Hour	FUA NEWS	sort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif.	Friends Seinfeld "The Fusili Jerry"	Celebration of Victory Coral Ridge Hour
23:00	American Idol	Movie ** * "Fearless"		Word in the World	FOX News	(Same-day Tape)	The Real World	Word in the World
23:30		(1993, Drama) Jeff Bridges.		Cafe Video Christian music.	1		Punk'd	Cafe Video Christian music.



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New Academy members deal with first-time voting jitters

BY RETH HARRIS The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES eith David popped in a DVD of "Vera Drake" and settled into the comfort of his pil-low-strewn brown sofa. The veteran actor had decisions to make - lots of them - that would affect careers and coffers alike

David is a new member of one of the world's most exclusive voting blocs, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences He's deciding for the very first time who gets to go home with an Oscar on Sunday.

"My vote counts," he said "It's like I'm the Electoral Col-

David, animator Brad Bird, actress Scarlett Johansson and costume designer David C. Robinson were among 127 people invit-ed to join the 5,808-member academy last year.

"It's really nice to be able to feel like you have some part of who is recognized," said Johansson, 20, one of the youngest vot-"Maybe I should've done a bet with somebody to see if my picks win Watching 35 movies — plus 10

short subjects and 10 documentaries - and listening to five CDs of nominated songs in barely three weeks would be nirvana to most film fans.

But it's been a race to the deadline - a very firm deadline that passed at 5 p.m. Tuesday - for many academy members, most of whom have jobs and families to attend to each day. David, for instance, had to cram two or three movies in after midnight one recent evening. Bird's also felt the squeeze.

"I feel a real rush, almost a panic, to see them all," he says, 'so I'm voting from a place of knowledge and not just because I know someone on a film or I like someone on a film."

Sometimes, the movies meld into a confusing blur.

Bird, nominated this year for original screenplay and animat-ed feature for "The Incredibles," recently attended the academy's nominees luncheon and met best-actress contender Annette Bening. He told her he loved her in "Finding Julia."

Oops! Bird had confused "Being Julia" with best-picture nominee "Finding Neverland."

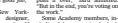
"I immediately corrected myself," he said. "I've seen so many in so little time "

Bird took his screeners - the free tapes and DVDs of the nomiwith him everywhere and watched at least one a day. During idle moments, he even

resorted to seeing some on his computer. Animated feature and original screenplay were Bird's easiest votes - for himself.

vote for pals or someone who helped them get a job? "If I felt two works were equally good and I liked one person more than another, it would

Academy Award voter So, did any of our first-timers



44 It's not brain surgery. It's the performances

visual things that arab you and make uou

feel something. I'm going to pick the things that do that.

Costume designer and

"But in the end, you're voting on

cluding Johansson, simply don't have the time to review all 24 categories, so they abstain from voting in

contests they haven't seen "You want to be able to really give a fair judgment. said the busy actress.

Others skip the more tech nical catego-ries, professing ignorance about the nu-

mle

member

est honor.

here

ances of crafts such as sound mixing, sound editing, visual effects and cinematography.

But not David, a Tony- and Emmy-nominated actor whose credits include "There's Some thing About Mary," "Head of State" and "Barbershop."

"It's my opinion," he said.
"Even if I don't know enough

Prince gets NAACP kudos

Prince may be a man of many names, but the NAACP likes his

image regardless.

The "Purple Rain" singer will be honored with the 2005 NAACP Vanguard Award in a Los Angeles ceremo-ny. The presentation will take place during the 36th annual NAACP Image Awards ceremony on March 19, which will be broadcast March 25 on Fox television. "During

'80s, Prince emerged as the musical prophet of the era, releasing a series of albums that both define and captured the spirit of the times," the National Association for the Advancement of Col-

ored People said in

a statement. "His



genre-bending songs sent shock waves through the music industry that still reverberate today."

The award is given to those who have worked to increase understanding and awareness of racial and social issues. The previous honorees are film director Steven Spielberg and

movie producer Stanley Kramer Earlier this month, Prince won two Grammy Awards — for best male R&B vocal performance for "Call My Name," a single from his most recent album, "Musicology," and best traditional R&B vocal performance for 'Musicology.'

First 'Idol' to tour solo

Kelly Clarkson is hitting the road on her first solo headline tour.

Clarkson, winner of the first "American Idol" competition, will open "The Breakaway Tour" March 30 in Tulsa. Okla. The tour will end in Vancouver. British Columbia.

May 29. "Nothing makes

about it, when I look at the

movie, I look at that aspect. I

know how a good editor can save

After watching "Vera Drake

on his 36-inch television. David

scribbled down notes detailing

what he liked about the illegal

abortion drama starring best-ac-

tress nominee Imelda Staunton.

"Torn doesn't begin to de-

scribe it," he said. "A lot of them

get the same mark, so I go back

and narrow it down. The few

movies that I'm very hot on, I go

back and watch them again. It's

hard to compare actors unless

you saw them all play the same

atre audience on Oscar night and Johansson will be a present-

er. David and Robinson, mean-

while, will have to watch the

fruits of their labors on TV be-

cause there's not enough room

at the Kodak for every academy

id's regard for Hollywood's high-

But that hasn't dimmed Day-

"I'm very glad they changed

the language to 'The Oscar goes

David said. "There are no losers

to,' instead of 'The winner is,

Bird will be in the Kodak The-

... a bad director."

me happier than being on the road," 22-year-old singer said in a day. "I can't wait to see the fans and perform my new material. Clarkson



theater-size venues, which she says "will be a great op-

portunity for me to connect with my die-hard fans in an intimate setting." Other stops on the 34-city tour include New York, Los Angeles and Chi-

Film too hot for Taiwan

Director Tsai Ming-liang says he won't release his award-winning film The Wayward Cloud" in his native Taiwan if the island's censors insist on cutting any of its sexually explicit

The film won a Silver Bear from the Berlin International Film Festival Saturday for outstanding artistic contribution. The movie stars Lee Kang-sheng, who plays a porn film actor caught between his longtime on-screen partner and his girlfriend. The movie includes oral sex, nudity

and other sexually explicit scenes. Tsai said he sought to use the film to

explore the bewildering subject of the human body.

"It will not be shown unless in its totality," Tsai told TV reporters.

Stories and photos from wire services



At his home in Los Angeles, first-time Oscar voter Keith David watches actress Imelda Staunton's performance in "Vera Drake," which earned her an Academy Award nomination for best actress. He was racing to view all the films nominated before the ballot deadline Tuesday.

"I feel like I did a good job," he said modestly. Robinson, the New York-

costume

hased watched three movies a day. If he wasn't voting, he acknowl-

Rwanda."

"It's not

and

things that

brain surgery,

he said. "It's

the performanc-

es and movies

grab you and make you feel

something. I'm

going to pick

the things that do that." he

said in a phone

interview last

visual

edged he proba-bly would have skipped "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unforand movies and tunate Events "Hotel

David Robinson

Horoscope

In spite of best intentions, it quickby becomes apparent that what will
be will be — you are not entirely in
change. The restless energy
that takes over is perfect for
drifting on the waves of
imagination and going
where the ideas tug. The
moon enters Libra tonight,
and what occurs after that
will make the whole day
seem worthwithing.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 25). You're alive with the spirit of learning. Mental expansion also

ing, Mental expansion also makes you of hos-outtractive to just the people you love to be around. Make sure to put plenty of fun into your schedule this spring, or you'll be too resentful to make the most of a June opportunity. The practicalities of love are solved in April, paving the way for a dreamy connection.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

There are people to meet, places to go and things to buy. If you put your attention on the people and places, it will seem less important to purchase the extra trappings to prove

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You've played love's game, and now, your romantic prospect is exactly where you want him or her As Dorothy Parker once said, "... and if that makes you happy, kid, you'll be the first it ever did."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Life's juicy offerings go to the patient now. Once you arrive in a social

now. Once you arrive in a social setting, plan to stay as long as possible. If you loiter around long enough, the whole world will drift in and out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Your inner wild child comes to the fore. You may feel possessive when others how at the moon. Your feral heart acts out in a way that no one else should be able to duplicate, crowd or stop.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You get what you aim for, so aim high. You might be surprised at what you

actually stop yourself from accepting because down deep you still don't feel you deserve it. It's not too late to change your self-concept.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

There's a fanciful twist in the plot of your love life — how delicious. Don't spend your energy telling everyone. Keep romantic ascrets. Also, while can gafter fame or notoriety, you could actually make some money.

nake some mon LIBRA (Sept.

23-0ct. 23). Restlessness sets in — you sense that other people in the world are having much

more fun than you. In this state, daily chores can seem lethal. If you can blow off responsibility and be spontaneous, you're cured.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's so much creative energy at your disposal! But in order to keep producing, you must keep exposing yourself to new influences. Educate

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

vourself. It's thrilling work.

21). The theme is compassion.
Having more of it requires an effort, but you won't be sorry you tried. See a problem from at least three points of view before you make a judgment. A loving Aquarius helps.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Your train of thought has definitely left the station. Now that you're on your way with this new project and your brain is humming with what to do next and next, you are extremely attractive to new romantic prospects.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Good news invigorates you and just when you need it the most! It's also stimulating to be around people who are riding out a wave of success. Say "yes" to the invitation tonight, but do nut houndaries in place.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Take care of your body. Your mind and your relationships run beautifully when you feel good. It's a fine time to stop worrying about that family member who continues to march to a different drummer.

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Bailey

or Worse

Peanuts







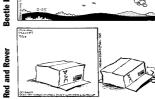










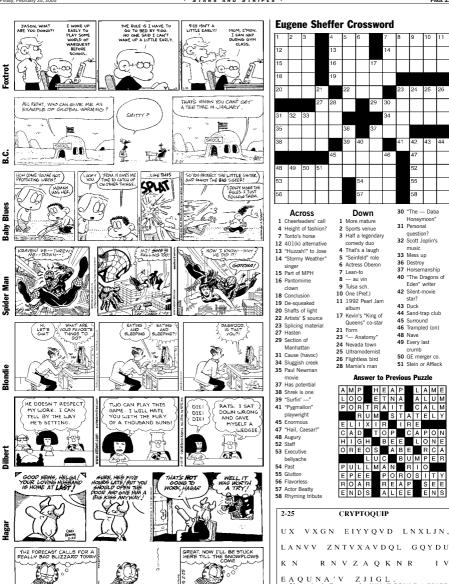








Friday February 25, 2005 • STARS AND STRIPES • PAGE 23



Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD A PRIOR PRESIDENT'S DENTURES BE CALLED? THE

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals T

GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE.

Get help for desire to be amputee

Dear Abby: I am 13 years old and I suffer from a condition where the person has a strong persistent desire to have one or more limbs amputated. This happens every day, and I don't understand it, but I want to have my leg amputated.

I have researched prosthetics on the Internet and have found that life as an amputee is not that different But I'm afraid if I tell my parents they will think I'm crazy. What should I do? It is ripping me apart.

Wannabe Amputee in Berkeley Dear Wannahe: The

compulsion you have described is, I don't have to tell you, an unusual one. Please find the courage to tell your parents what is on your

mind. Your parents may want you to explore this issue with a psychotherapist. Do not be afraid to do so; it does not mean you are "crazy."

work I come in contact with a lot of people. Occasionally, my clients bring up the subject of race and make unacceptable com-

I have two beautiful biracial children and I feel I need to defend their honor and Dear Abby

tell these people I do not approve of the comments. However, I have been informed by management that I am not allowed to say anything to the clients How can I handle

this tastefully?

— Offended in Oberlin,

Dear Offended: A picture is worth a thou sand words. If there are no rules against displaying family photographs, bring a lovely framed picture of your little ones to work and display it on your desk. Should anyone ask who the children are, smile sweetly and say, "They're

Dear Abby: My 75-year-old paternal grandmother, "Granny Claire," smells like mothballs and she's totally unaware of it. She stores her winter clothes in a basement storage area filled with mothballs and the odor has saturated her house and everything in

Other people have been offend-ed by it and have made comments to my sister and me. We have tried to tell Granny nicely, but she acts like we're exaggerating and shrugs it off. No one can stay in her home for long periods.

- Holding my Nose in N.J. Dear Holding: As people age their senses dull, and the senses of hearing, taste and smell can be affected. In your grandmother's case, I recommend a family intervention that she cannot shrug off — and that her son, your father, accompany her to an ear, nose and throat specialist for an evaluation.

Letters for this column - with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, STAGE one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words YARDT KLANE HEETES HOW THE STEAMY SOAP OPERA STAR LEFT THE FANS.

Answer:

CEIVED

(Answers tomorrow) EXPEND Jumbles: FILMY TOXIC VIOLIN What the bookie gave the waiter -

Now arrange the circled letters to

suggested by the above cartoon.

form the surprise answer, as

Yesterday's



A NICE "TIP"

"I've been in here a long time, Mommy. Am I sorry yet?"

Absent-mindedness likely a phase

Dear Annie: I have a Annie's Mailbox pre-teen daughter, "Angel" She is develon ing into a classic stereo type of the blonde airhead. Just today, she went to get the mail, set it down in an unusual place and promptly forgot about it.
When I asked her what happened to the mail, she had to search for five minutes before she found it. Last month, I had to turn the car around be-cause Angel forgot a birthday present that she'd had in her hands 30 seconds before we got

into the car. Angel is smart, caring, friendly and witty, but I'm afraid this absent-mindedness will be a major problem for her in the

years to come. I teach high school, and I know how cruel kids can be and how

quickly peers can reinforce such personality traits. I've tried positive reinforce ment. We've had long talks about awareness. We've even worked on reminders to help her remember

glasses, homework, lunch money,

etc. Nothing helps. I need help for my sanity a little, but mostly for Angel's self-esteem. I've already heard the "I'm so stupid" comment from her a couple of times, and it breaks my heart. Is there a 12-step program for this type of

- Airhead's Dad in Las Vegas Dear Dad: This could

be hormones run amuck. It is not unusual for pre-teens and teenagers to seem scatterbrained and forgetful However, before making that assumption, please have her checked out by her pediatrician. There may be a physiological reason why Angel cannot focus.

In the meantime, please do not make a fuss over this, or you will be reinforcing the behavior, too, Dad. Negative attention is still attention, and when she knows she is disappointing you, she feels inadequate. Give her a calendar so she can keep track of her home work assignments and special dates, suggest she concentrate when she puts something down

set up specific places for keys, glasses, etc., and then let her deal with it. We think it will pass.

Dear Annie: A friend of mine recently married and received a large check from a friend of the groom's family. When she tried to cash it, the check bounced twice. Thus far, she has re-mained silent about it and hasn't told her in-laws. I don't know what to tell her. Can you help? Girlfriend

Dear Girlfriend: We contacted Peggy Post of the Emily Post Institute, and this is what she "There is no need to say anything to the groom's family. Don't blow the whistle. Send a thank-you note for the generous gift, and leave it at that. The guests will know that the checked bounced, and hopefully, they will do the right thing and

send another one. Senta unioner one:
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy
Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime
editors of the Ann Landers column.
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Villanova adds BC to list of ranked upset victims

BY DAN GELSTON The Associated Press

VILLANOVA, Pa. - With big wins over ranked teams and a winning surge that has them streaking up the Big East standings, the Villanova Wildcats seem poised to return to the NCAA tournament

Still, coach Jay Wright is not resting easi-

"We really don't talk about that," Wright said. "We're very concerned about our regular season. It's so subjective. We go for our own goals."

Check beating the No. 2 and 3 teams in the country off the list.

23rd-ranked Wildcats survived nine-minute stretch without a field goal to beat No. 3 Boston College 76-70 on Wednesday night.

The enthusiastic fans stormed the court just as they have for two other home wins over Top 25 teams, chanted "Tourna-

ment!" and shook hands with Wright. The Wildcats (18-6, 8-5 Big East) beat their fourth Top 25 team of the year, including a win over then-No. 2 Kansas last month, and bolstered their chances of making their first NCAA tournament appear-

ance since 1999

into a three-way tie for fourth place with Pittsburgh and Georgetown in the conference standings. Boston College remained in first place, only one game ahead of Connecticut

"We were confident we could come in and play well, but we're still not thinking about the NCAAs," said Curtis Sumpter, who played with a sore knee and scored 18 of his 20 points in the first half.

Craig Smith led a second-half rally for Boston College (22-2, 11-2) and finished with 18 points, while Jared Dudley had 15. The Wildcats, coming off a win over then-No. 17 Pittsburgh on Sunday, used 70 half to take a halftime lead they stretched to 13 points early in the second half. When Jason Fraser made a layup at the 13:15 mark, the Wildcats led 57-47 and seemed

The Eagles - who rallied from halftime deficits to win eight times this season started their run while Villanova went into a field-goal drought.

Steve Hailey capped a 12-2 spurt with a three-pointer that pulled the Eagles to 62-60 with 6:23 left.

Foye banked a 6-footer for a 67-64 lead, ending the drought. The Wildcats never lost the lead thanks to 8-for-10 free-throw shooting during that span.

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Devils stifle Jackets' momentum

ATLANTA - Even with B.J. Elder back, Georgia Tech can't seem to generate momentum to make a

run for an NCAA tournament bid.

Elder made his second straight start after missing nine games at the start of the Atlantic Coast Confer ence schedule with a hamstring injury, but the se-nior who normally provides scoring leadership for the Yellow Jackets was held to two points in a 60-56 loss to No. 7 Duke on Wednesday night. Tech was 0-for-5 from three-point range, commit-

ted 19 turnovers and shot 29 percent from the field

in the second half, wasting a strong defensive effort. "I think the turnovers are putting some pressure on us," Geor-

gia Tech coach Paul Hewitt said. The first half, in particular, had some breakouts, and I thought if we could convert those, mentally and psy-

chologically we could get into the flow a little bit. And then you're not squeezing the shot like it's the The struggles have left Tech without consecutive

wins since early January.

Hewitt said Duke (20-4, 10-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) looks like a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. One year after advancing to the NCAA cham-pionship game, Tech (15-9, 6-7) is not even assured

Tech, which now faces road games at Miami and Wake Forest before closing its conference schedule at home against Clemson, needs an offensive lift to boost its postseason outlook

"We're not really in a panic mode, we just know this game Saturday at Miami is going to be a big one for us," Elder said.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Tech's break-

through is inevitable

"They were this close to winning tonight," Krzyze-wski said, holding his fingers less than an inch apart. "They're too good and are too well-coached and they are good kids. It'll happen. I'm just happy that it didn't happen against us tonight." Krzyzewski said Elder "is one of the best players

in the country" but is not yet in game shape.

Elder, who was 1-for-8 from the field, played just 4 minutes in the first half after picking up two fouls.

Junior Lee Melchionni delivered two late three-pointers to lift Duke With Tech focusing its defense on J.J. Redick,

Melchionni snapped a 49-49 tie with a three-pointer from the corner with 3:15 left. He added another with 1:26 left for a 57-52 le With Duke leading 57-54, Melchionni missed a

shot from the top of the circle as the shot clock expired, but Daniel Ewing grabbed the rebound for the Blue Devils and was fouled with 31 seconds left

"That was probably as important a play as there was in the basketball game," Krzyzewski said.

Ewing missed two free throws, but the second was rebounded by Duke's Shelden Williams, again preventing Tech from taking possession.

A free throw by DeMarcus Nelson pushed Duke's lead to four before a putback by Tech's Luke Schenscher cut the lead to 58-56 with 11 seconds left.

Mario West was called for a foul on the inbounds play, and Redick, who led Duke with 21 points. made two free throws to push the lead back to four.

No. 1 Illinois 84, Northwestern 48: Dee Brown scored 18 of his 20 points on three-pointers to lead the Illini (28-0, 14-0), who clinched at least a share of the Big Ten title for the second straight season.



Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack, center, battles Duke's Daniel Ewing, left, and Sheldon Williams for a loose ball in the second half on Wednesday.

Brown had five threes in the first half as Illinois took a 45-22 lead. It was Illinois' 24th straight Big Ten win, and 20th in a row at Assembly Hall.

No. 5 Kentucky 81, Auburn 73: Kelenna Azubuike had career highs of 30 points and 11 rebounds for the Wildcats (21-3, 12-1 Southeastern Confer-

ence), who clinched at least a share of the East Division title for the sixth straight season Freshman Toney Douglas had 21 points, all in the second half, for the visiting Tigers (12-14, 3-10).

No. 6 Wake Forest 88. Longwood 47: Taron Downey scored 13 points as the Demon Deacons (23-4) cruised to the nonconference home win

Michael Jefferson scored 14 points for the Lancers (1-29), who extended their school-record losing streak to 18 games in their first full season of Divi sion I competition.

No. 15 Syracuse 83. St. John's 69: Hakim Warrick had a career-high 35 points and grabbed 10 rebounds - his 12th double-double of the season and the Orange (23-5, 10-4 Big East) broke a two-game losing streak to give coach Jim Boeheim his 699th win.

Daryll Hill had a career-high 33 points for the Red Storm (9-15, 3-11), who lost their 20th straight road game.

West Virginia 70, No. 18 Pittsburgh 66: Kevin Pittsnogle scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half and the visiting Mountaineers (17-8, 7-7 Big East) rallied from 14 points down to sweep the season series and win for the fifth time in six games overall.

Chevon Troutman had 15 points for the Panthers (18-6, 8-5), who didn't have a field goal in the final 7:26 in losing their second straight.

No. 21 Charlotte 80, Memphis 77: At Charlotte, N.C., Eddie Basden scored 24 points, including two free throws with 1.8 seconds to play, and the 49ers (20-4, 11-2) won their sixth straight and moved into a tie with Louisville for first place in Conference USA.

SCOREBOARD

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AFN-Sports, noon-College basketball:
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AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.-College basketball:
Gonzaga at Portland (dld).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-Golf: World Golf Championships, Accenture Match Play Championship, 3rd round.

Saturday

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—Motorcycle racing: HQ World Supercross (San Diego) (dld). AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—Pro basketball: Cleve-and at Indiana. AFN-Radio, 2 a.m.—Pro basketball: Denver APH-radus, 2 data—T-10 Users with the APH-radus, 2 data—T-10 Users with the APH-radus and APH-radus and APH-radis, 4 data—T-10 Users with 12-1-1. 15 K(O5) vs. Ferney Fellz (21-4, 14 K(O5), heavyweights.

APH-Pacific, 4:30 a.m.—Pro basketball: Minnesota at Seath 4:03 a.m.—Pro basketball: Derroit at L.A. Lakers.

—Motor at L.A. Lakers.

—Motor rading: Craftsman Trucks Series American Racing Wheels and radis. 200 (dld).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—Pro basketball: Cleve-land at Indiana (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—Outdoors: FLW Bass Tour at Lake Okeechobee (dld).

AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m.—College basketball: AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m.—College basketball: Providence at Syracuse. AFN-Sports and Radio, 7 p.m.—College bas-ketball: Missouri at Texas. AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—Outdoors: Babe Winkelmans' Good Fishing. AFN-Atlantic, 7:30 p.m.—College basket-ball: Kentucky at Alabama. AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. — Golf: World Golf Cham-ionships, Accenture Match Play Champion-bio complicate ship, semifinals.

AFN-Atlantic, 9:45 p.m.—College basket-ball: Connecticut at Pittsburgh.

AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.—College basketball: Ar-izona at Washindton.

All times are Central European Time; did in-dicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared 1. Illinois (28-0) beat Northwestern 84-48. Next: vs. Purdue, Thursday, March 3. 2. North Carolina (23-3) did not play. Next: at Maryland, Sunday. 3. Boston Collenn (27-2) at Maryland, Sunday,

3. Boston College (22-2) lost to No. 23 Vilianova 76-70. Next: vs. Seton Hall, Saturday,

4. Oklahoma State (20-4) did not play,
Next: at No. 8 Kansas, Sunday,

5. Kentucky (21-3) beat Auburn 81-73. Next:

at No. 16 Alabama, Saturday,

6. Wake Forest (23-4) beat Longwood "6. "Wake Forest (23-4) beat Longwood Sed-Takert y Myrginia, Sunday The-Pot 60-56. Nort at \$1. John S. Sturday." Nort va \$1. John S. Sturday. Nort va \$1. John S. Fig. 10 and 10 a 22. Oklahoma (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.
23. Villanova (18-6) beat No. 3 Boston College 76-70. Next: at Georgetown, Sunday.
24. Cincinnati (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Thursday.
25. Nevada (21-5) did not play. Next: at Fresno State, Saturday.

Wednesday's men's scores

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Xavier 81, George Washington 62
SOUTHWEST
Lamar 88, Texas-San Antonio 83
Texas A&M-C.C. 99, Huston-Tillotson 67
FAR WEST

Grand Canyon 77, W. New Mexico 64
TOURNAMENT
CUNY Athletic Conference

Semifinals
Semifinals
Semifinals
Semifinals
ACCNY 69
Staten Island 79, Lehman 70
Commonwealth Con Commonwealth Confer First Round Lebanon Valley 74, Messiah 66 Freedom Conferenc

valley (A. Ness) All De Freedom Conference Desales 67, Wilkes 63 Mings, Pa. 75, Caranton 70 Mascas Framingham St. 48, Bridgewater, Mass. 47 Salem St. 81, Westfield St. 74 Mid-Central Conference Hurdington 88, Bethel, Ind. 75 New Jersey Athletic Conference

w Jersey Athletic Con Ramapo 61, Rutgers-Newark 46 Richard Stockton 79, Rowan 78 Ohio Conference Quarterfinals Baldwin-Wallace 78, Otterbein 76, OT John Carroll 75, Wilmington, Ohio 67 Mount Union 95, Capital 74 Muskingum 81, Ohio Northern 63

AP Women's Top 25 fared

Wednesday

1. LSU (25-1) did not play. Next: at Arkan-sas, Thursday.
2. Duke (25-2) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Thursday. 3. Stanford (24-2) did not play. Next: vs. Or-enon. Thursday. 3. Stafflord (24-2) use not play. React ter-gon, Thursday, 4. Ohio State (25-3) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Thursday, 5. Tennessee (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Mississipp State, Thursday, 6. Baylor (22-3) beat Kansas 70-60. Next: at Colorado, Saturday, 6. Michigan State (25-3) beat Michigan 7-34. Next: vs. TBA, Big Ten tournament, Fri-lay, March 4. 8. North Carolina (22-3) did not play. Next: "S. North Carolina (22-3) did not play, Next:
y (Irgina), Trigadh) not play, Next: a Pitts-burgh, Friday
property (15-4), play (15-4), play (15-4), play
11. Connection (15-6) did not play, Next:
west Virgina, Saturday,
11. Connection (15-6) did not play, Next:
y West Virgina, Saturday,
12. Depaul (23-3) did not play, Next: yMarquette, Sundy (15-4), play (15-4), Next: yCollaborna, Saturday, Next: yCollaborna, Saturday, Next: y15- Mannesdar (26-6) did not play, Next: y15- Mannesdar (26-6) did

TANK MCNAMARA

THE PREATEST VALUE OF

THE BYENTEST VALUE OF THE NFL SCOUTING COMBINE IS THAT ALL THE COACHING STAFFS GET A HEAD-TO-HEAD, APPLES-TO-APPLES, SAME-TIME COMPARISON. FOR EXAMPLE, VERTICAL LEAP.

TO V

Wednesday's scores

SOUTH Alabama-Birmingham 1, Alabama 0, susp. 1½ innings, lightning

16. Temple (22-3) did not play. Next: at Massachusetts, Thursdav.

Massachusetts, Thursday, 17. Kansas State (19-6) beat Nebraska 94-69. Next: vs. Kansas, Saturday, 18. Georgia (20-7) did not play. Next: at 19. North Carolina State (19-6) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Thursday, 20. Vanderbilt (19-6) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Thursday, 20. Vanderbilt (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama, Thursday.

Aby, -- amery tert (1954) and not play, Next: vs. Alabama, Truet (205) beat Hissouri 76-70.
21. Iowa State (205) Seat Hissouri 76-70.
22. Penn State (18-7) did not play, Next: at No. 4 Ohlo State, Sunday,
23. Maryland (18-7) did not play, Next: vs. 24. Boston College (17-8) did not play.
24. Boston College (17-8) did not play.
25. Gonzaga (24-2) did not play. Next: vs. Dertland, Salturday,

Wednesday's women's scores

Wednesday's women's score

EAST
Albany, N.Y. 81, Store Prook 60
American International 71, Bentley 60, OT
American International 71, Bentley 60, OT
American St. Bentley 60, OT
American 51, Bentley 60, OT
Bengharton 51, Bentley 63
Bucknell 72, Holy Cross 71
Bucknell 72, Holy Cross 71
Columbia Loino not, Cheyney 62
East Stroudsburg 72, Mansfield 63
Iona 89, Fairfield 76 Lafayette 68, Navy 58 Maine 59, Boston U. 56 Millersville 54, Kutztow Millersville 54, Kutztown 40 Molloy 92, Mercy, N.Y. 74 Moravian 78, Widener 71 Northeastern 67, New Hamp nurtneastern 67, New Hampshire 61 Philadelphia 70, Concordia, N.Y. 56 Slippery Rock 64, Indiana, Pa. 59 Southampton 86, C.W. Post 64 St. Thomas Aguinas 67, Bridgeport 64 Vermont 69, UMBC 51 Vermont 69, UMBC 50 Jugusta St. 67, S.C.-Alken 64 Barry 67, Lynn 40 Ellyrkis 6-79

August S. E. Gr. Sc. Alken 64 Florida Southern 82, St. Leo 74 Florida 1 Ech 55, Rollins 92, T. Leo 74 Florida 1 Ech 55, Rollins 92, T. Columbus St. 70 Georgia College 78, Columbus St. 70 Miles 64, Clark Atlanta 52 M.C. Asheville 54, Winthron 94 N.C. Permbroke 65, Francis Marion 48 N.C. Permbroke 65, Francis Marion 48 N.C. Permbroke 65, Francis Marion 160 N.C. Permbroke 16

Bayling Green 73, Marshall 62 Carleton 67, St. Mary's, Minn. 51 Case Reserve 81, Carnegie-Melli Culver-Stockton 65, Baker 61 Dakota St. 67, Minot St. 55 E. Michigan 69, Cent. Michigan 53 Eureka 70, Benedictine,III. 65, OT Evangel 61, Missouri Valley 44 Evangel 61. Missouri Valley 44. Hillsdale 51. Findlay 48 Indiana St. 82. Evansville 69 lowa St. 76. Missouri 70 Kansas St. 34, Nebraska 69 Kernal (Ohlo) 88. Buffalo 50 Michigan St. 77, Michigan 34 Missouri Western 84, New Missouri Western 85, Olivanda Missouri Western 86, Missouri Wester

Texas 83, Colorado 40 Texas A&M 75, Oklahoma St. 61 Texas Tech 83, Oklahoma 70 Texas-San Antonio 82, Lamar 55

U ar 55

Texas Tech 8. Gidalpona 70

Texas San Antonio S. Lamur Seressas Antonio S. Dakota Misk Hills 8. 68

5. Dakota Misk Hills 8. 68

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5. Dakota Hills 8. 68

Serantor 14, Fibi-Tipotham Seringas

Serantor 14, Fibi-Tipotham Seringas

Serantor 14, Fibi-Tipotham Seringas

Oricid 17, First Bound

Oricid 17, First Bound

Oricid 18, First Bound

Oricid 18, First Bound

Oricid 19, First Bound de 72, Dor

Mascac Semifinals Fitchburg St. 53, Worcester St. 51 Wiac Semifinals Wis.-Oshkosh 74, Wis.-Stevens Pt. 67 Wis.-Stout 70, Wis.-Eau Claire 65, OT Fresno St. 57, Utah Valley St. 36

College baseball

HAVE YOU JUMPED YET

... WHICH FOR PLAYERS AT SOME POSITIONS, HONESTLY, DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE.

HAVE YOU JUMPED YET

Auburn-Montgomery 13, Huntingdon 1 Augusta St. 5, Paine 3

Auburn-Mengagnery 13. Huntingdon 1
Berry 11.6, Finery Frenghe 0-0
Erry 11.6, Finery Frenghe 0-0

Rollins 7, St. Leo 1
Virginia 8, Old Dominion 0
West Alabama 5, Kennesaw St. 1
St. Edward's 9, Texas A&M-Kingsville 5
FAR WEST
Arizona 11, Arizona St. 5

Tennis

Dubai Championships

Wednesday At Dubai Tennis Stadium Dubai, UAE

At Dubal Terring Stadium
Purses 31 million (Inst. Indus)
Surface Hard-Outdoor
Surface Hard-Ou

Qatar Open Wednesday At The Khalifa Tennis Centre Doha, Qatar Purse: \$600,000 (Tier II) Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Second Round

Singles Second Round Alicia Molik (4), Australia, def. Nicole ratt, Australia, 6-3, 6-2. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Elena Pratt, Australia, 63, 62. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Blena Bovina (6), Russia, 6-0, 3-6, 5-1, Marcino Bartoli, France, def. Jelena Kostan-Crossle, 7-5, 50-6, 20, Russia, def. Gisela Dulko, Argentina, 6-1, 6-1, Francesca Schlavone, Italy, def. Al Sugiyama, Japan, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 ma, Japan, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2. Conchita Martinez, Spain, def. Anastasia Myskina (3), Russia, 6-4, 7-5. Maria Kirlienko, Russia, def. Patty Schny-der (5), Switzerland, 6-0, 1-6, 6-2. Amelie Mauresmo (1), France, def. Ana Ivanovic, Serbia-Montenegro, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Tennis Channel Open

Wednesday
At The Fairmont Scottsdale Princ
Scottsdale, Ariz.
Purse: \$380,000 (Intl. Series)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles

Mexican Open

MeXIcal Upen

At The Individual Open

At The Individual Open

Area of the Individual Open

Surface (Say-Outdoor

Surface (Say-Outdoo

ipain, 7-5, 6-2. — Institute of the Control of the

Women First Round

First Round
Emmanuelle Gagliardi (22), Switzerland,
def. Camille Pin (21), France, 5-2, 5-1.
Flavia Pennetta (1), Italy, def. Julia Schruff
(16), Germany, 7-5, 6-1.
Meghann Shaugnessy (2), USA, def. Melissa Torres (25), Mexico, 6-3, 7-5.
Second Round

Lilia Osterloh, United States, def. Marta Jomachowska (7), Poland, 7-5, 6-4. Catalina Castano, Colombia, def. Alina Jidk-wa (4), Russia, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. ova (4), Russia, 2-6, 5-4, 5-20, der. Fainta Julic Ludmila Gervanova, Slovakia, def. Marissa Irvin, United States, 6-1, 6-1, adagascar, def. Dally Randriantely (5), 6-1, adagascar, def. Tatlana Pereblynis, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2, Severine Beltrame, France, def. Emille Loit (3), France, 7-6 (6), 7-5.

Auto racing

Busch Series standings

1. Tony Stewart, 190; 2. Kevin Harylck, 170; 3. Dale Earnhardt, Jr., 170; 4. Martin Truex, Jr., 160; 5. Kasey Kahne, 155; 6. Robby Gor-don, 150; 7. Greg Biffle, 147; 8. Michael Wal-trip, 146; 9. Carl Edwards, 139; 10. Reed Soren-son, 138.

Craftsman Trucks standings

1. Bobby Hamilton, 185: 2. Jimmy Spencer, 175: 3. Todd Bodine, 175: 4. Ricky Craven, 165: 5. Ted Musgrave, 155: 6. Brad Keselows-kl, 151: 7. Ken Weaver, 150: 8. David Starr, 142: 9. Johnny Benson, 139: 10. Wayne Ed-wards, 138.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

Wednesday's transactions
AND RECING
TO RECING

ing inspections.

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES – Announced OF Matt
Diaz has elected to become a free agent.
Mational League
HOUSTON ASTROS – Agreed to terms with
RHP Juan Gutlerez and RHP Fernando Nieve RHP Juan Gutierrez and RHP Fernando Nieve on one-year contracts.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS – Agreed to terms with INF Lyle Overbay, INF Bill Hall and RHP Ben Hendrickson on one-year contracts. SAN DIEGO PADRES – Agreed to terms with RHP Andy Ashby and IB-OF-C Robert Fick on minor league contracts.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Chad Cordero on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Placed G Steve imith on the injured list. Signed G Matt Car-DALLAS MAVERICKS—Placed C Eric Dampi-er on the injured list. Activated C DJ Mbenga er on the injured list. Activated C DI Minenga from the injured list. DENYER NUGGETS—Named Doug Moe as-sistant coach, Reassigned Michael Cooper, assistant coach, within the organization. GOLDEN STATE WARKINGS—Placed G Luis Flores on the injured list. Activated F Troy WILD ADELPHIA TREES—Acquired F Chris PHIADDELPHIA TREES—Acquired F Chris WHADDELPHIA TREES—ACQUIRED F Chris WOODER, Matt Barnes and Michael Brad-velover. Matt Barnes and Michael Brad-

ley from the Sacramento Kings for F Brian Skinner, F Kenny Thomas and F Corliss Williamson.

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Placed G

Derek Anderson on the injured list. Activated F Shareef Abdur-Rahim from the injured st.
SAN ANTONIO SPURS—Placed F-C Sean
Aprile on the injured list. Activated G Mike

VIIks from the injured list.

UTAH JAZZ—Placed G Raul Lopez on the inured list. Activated G Keith McLeod from jured list. Activated G Reith MULESUN IN-the injured list. WIZARDS—Placed G Juan Dixon and C Peter John Ramos on the injured list. Activated G Larry Hughes and F kwame Women's National Baskethall Association SEATTLE STORM—Re-signed F Lauren Jack-

Son.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS—Named Alex Gibbs
consultant, Clancy Barone tight ends coach
and Jeff Jagodzinski assistant head coach ind offensive line coach.

DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed QB Drew Bled-

DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed UB Drew Bied-soe to a three-year Contracts of Q Jay Fledler, S Arturo Freeman, S Shawn Wooden and DE Jay Williams. Or Shawn Wooden and DE Jay Williams. Or Shawn Wooden WE WENGLAND PATRIATY coach and Harold In the Wenglas of the Company of the Con-lant of the Company of the Company of the Management of the Company of the Company of the Buck Rasmussen, G Williams and TE Zeron Flemister.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Named Tim Ruskell president of football operations and general

manager.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

LOS ANGELES GALAXY — Acquired MF Gui
ermo Ramirez on Ioan from CSD Municipal
Guatemala's First Division.

O'Neal sparks Pacers past Shaq-less Heat

BY STEVE HERMAN

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - Jermaine was the dominant O'Neal on Wednesday night.

With injured Shaquille O'Neal watching from Miami's bench, Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal scored all three Pacers baskets in overtime, including a turnaround jumper from the baseline with 11 seconds remaining, in a 93-91 victory over the Heat.

"They may be a little more fluid without him in there," Jermaine O'Neal said. "When he's there, it's a big challenge for the big guys. Without him, they do a lot of things they don't usually do. But I knew I could get a shot over whichever guys they had."

O'Neal finished with 29 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots as the Pacers won their fourth straight and their 11th in a row over the Heat.

Shaquille O'Neal, who injured his knee in an overtime loss at Chicago on Tuesday night, is scheduled for an MRI in Miami on Thursday. He was on the sideline Wednesday as the Eastern Conference-leading Heat rallied from a 14-point deficit in the second quarter.

Miami pulled to 66-63 after three quarters and caught the Pacers in the closing minutes of regulation.

"Tonight was a game I felt was going to be equally tough with or without Shaq, Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said.



Indiana Pacers forward Jermaine O'Neal left, hits the game-winning shot over Miami Heat's Udonis Haslem on Wednesday night.

"We were fortunate that Shaq was out, but you never want to see a guy that means this much to our league not playing," Carlisle said. "I know a lot of our fans were disappointed not to get a chance to see him, but these things happen. You hope you can very pleased about that."

Dwyane Wade had 38 points, one point short of his career high set in November against IItah and scored nine in the final eight minutes of the fourth quarter.

We have two tough losses the last two nights, but if one play goes the other way, we're winning those games," Wade said. "We have a lot of confidence in ourselves, and we know when Shaq comes back, we are a better team."

Two free throws by Jermaine O'Neal put Indiana ahead 87-85 with 32 seconds left. but Damon Jones scored on a goaltending call against O'Neal with 18 seconds to go, sending the game to overtime.

After O'Neal's first basket in the extra period, Miami took the lead 91-89 on a rebound tip by Udonis Haslem and two free throws by Wade. O'Neal then tied the game at 91 and rebounded a miss by Wade to set up the winning basket.

"It was drawn up for me to go strong-side and then go weak-side and post up over Haslem," O'Neal said. "I had a couple of inches on him. From that side, it was just me and the backboard. I took the shot and made it.

A desperation shot by Wade went off the rim at the buzzer.

"It felt good," Wade said. "I bobbled the ball a little bit and tried to get it off in time.

It came up a little short. Reggie Miller added 23 points for Indi-

points and 10 rebounds.

Jones had 17 points for the Heat, while Haslem added 11 points and a career-high 18 rebounds.

Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said Wade 'was phenomenal."

"He was great, attacking, making plavs. making jump shots. He was by far the best player on the floor."

Wade, scoring in double figures for a career-high 31st straight game, was the focus of the Heat's offense with Shaq on the sideline. He had six early points as Miami jumped ahead 11-4 and five more the rest of the first quarter before the Pacers took control.

A three-pointer and two free throws by Miller tied the game, then O'Neal gave Indiana its first lead less than a minute later There was one more lead change and one more tie before a pair of free throws by Jackson put the Pacers in front.

Jackson added a three-pointer and O'Neal scored on a dunk as the Pacers finished the quarter with a 10-3 run and a 27-21 lead.

Indiana built the lead to 14 points midway through the second period before three baskets by Michael Doleac, who started in place of Shaq, keyed a 13-3 run that brought the Heat within four. A basket by O'Neal with a second remaining gave Indiana a 47-41 lead at halftime.

There were five lead changes and eight more ties before O'Neal's winning basket.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Philadelphia	26	27	.491	-	
New Jersey	23	32	.418	4	
Toronto	22	32	.407	41/2	
New York	21	33	.389	51/2	
Southeast	Divis	ion			
Miami	40	16	.714	-	
Washington	31	22	.585	71/2	
Orlando	28	25	.528	101/2	
Charlotte	11	40	.216	261/2	
Atlanta	10	43	.189	281/2	
Central D	Divisio	n			
Detroit	33	19	.635	-	
Cleveland	31	21	.596	2	
Chicago	27	24	.529	51/2	
Indiana	27	26	.509	61/2	
Milwaukee	22	30	.423	11	
Western Conference					
Southwest Division W L Pct GR					

Western Conference						
Southwest Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
San Antonio	42	12	.778	-		
Dallas	36		.692	5		
Houston	32	23	.582	101/2		
Memphis	30	24	.556	12		
New Orleans	11		.204	31		
Northwest I						
Seattle	37	15	.712	-		
Minnesota	27	27	.500	11		
Denver		29	.463	13		
Portland	21	31	.404	16		
Utah		36	.321	201/2		
Pacific Di						
Phoenix	42	13	.764	-		
Sacramento	34	20	.630	71/2		
L.A. Lakers	28	24	.538	121/2		
L.A. Clippers		31	.426	181/2		
Golden State		38	.296	251/2		

Wednesday's game: Indiana 93, Miami 91, OT Cleveland 100, Chicago 91 Washington 93, Memphis 83 Milwaukee 100, New Jersey 81 Seattle 103, New Orleans 85 Dallas 101, Utah 83 Denver 107, Boston 86 San Antonio 99, Meuston 91 Denver 107, Boston 86 San Antonio 99, Houston 81 Phoenix 118, L.A. Clippers 10 L.A. Lakers 86, Portland 83 Golden State 101, Atlanta 96 Thursday's gam Philadelphia at New York

Priday's g Charlotte at New Jersey Denver at Memphis Cleveland at Indiana Toronto at Milwaukee Washington at Chicago Toronto at Milwaukee Washington at Chicago Boston at Utah Atlanta at Portland Detroit at L.A. Lakers Minnesota at Seattle Saturday's games

Saturday's game Orlando at Miami Chicago at Charlotte Indiana at New York Sacramento at Philadelphia Memphis at San Antonio Phoenix at Dallas

Wednesday Pacers 93, Heat 91 (OT)

MAMI — ELONGS 312, 44-11, Haslem 3-11, 44-10, 100 to 21, 24-24, 10-10, 1

indiana ZZ 20 19 21 6—93 Three-Point Goals—Miami 3-14 (D.Jones 2-6, E.Jones 1-6, Butler 0-1, Wade 0-1), Indi-ana 6-25 (Miller 3-6, J.Jones 1, 2, Croshere 1-4, Jackson 1-7, Johnson 0-1, Tinsley 0-2, FJones 0-3), Fouled Out-Harrison, Rebounds—Mi-ami 53 (Haslem II.), Indiana 25 (J.O'Neal 1-0, Assists—Malmi 14 (Wade 8), Indiana 25 (Jins-ley 6), Total Fouls—Miami 23, Indiana 24, Indiana 24, Anderson — Malemi 21, Indiana 24, Anderson — Malemi 21, Indiana 24, In

Cavaliers 100, Bulls 91

Cavaliers 100, Bulls 91

- HILAGO - Deng 3-52 18, Harrington 2-5
- 3-17, Curry 1-12-48 12, Duhn 0-12-22, Alipe 1-2
- 3-17, Curry 1-12-48 12, Duhn 0-12-22, Alipe 1-2
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Wizards 93, Grizzlies 83

MEMPHIS — Battler 4-15 3-4 14, Cardinal 3-9 6-6 14, Wright 3-8 0-0 6, Miller 6-15 3-5 16, Williams 4-11 0-0 10, Humphrey 0-1 0-00, Wat-son 1-8 0-0 2, Wells 2-6 4-5 8, Jones 0-2 1-2 1, Tsakalidis 5-5 0-0 10, Burks 0-1 2-2 2. Totals 28-81 19-24 83. NGTON — Jamison 8-17 10-14 27, Jef-

fries 4-7 0-0 8, Haywood 2-	4 1-2 5. Haves 1-4
0-0 2. Arenas 8-20 13-13 30	. Brown 1-4 0-1 2.
Thomas 2-4 2-2 6, Peeler 0	-1 2-2 2, Blake 2-6
4-49, Ruffin 1-1 0-0 2. Total	
Memphis	23 21 17 22-83
Washington	21 21 30 21-93
Three-Point Goals-Mem	phis 8-31 (Battier
3-7, Cardinal 2-5, William	s 2-6, Miller 1-5,
Wells 0-1, Burks 0-1, Jones	0-2, Watson 0-4),
Washington 3-9 (Blake 1-2,	Arenas 1-3, Jami-
son 1-3, Peeler 0-1). Foule	d Out-None. Re-
bounds-Memphis 50 (Batt	ier, Wright, Miller
8), Washington 53 (Arenas	, Jamison 10). As-

Bucks 100, Nets 81

NEW JERSEY — Carter 11-27 3-4 26, Collin 2-5 2-2 6, Ja.Smith 3-8 0-0 6, Kidd 3-10 5-6 11 Vaughn 2-9 0-0 4, Mercer 3-12 1-2 7, Robinso Vaughn 2-9 0-0 4, Mercer 3-12 1-2 7, Robinsor 4-9 2-2 10, Thomas 2-3 0-0 5, Campbell 0-0 0-0 0, Best 2-5 0-0 4, Planinic 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 33-89 13-16 81.

Milwaukee		0 23-100
Three-Point Goals-Ne	ew Jersey 2	-10 (Tho-
nas 1-2, Carter 1-3, Kid	d 0-2, Robir	ison 0-3),
filwaukee 2-8 (Kukoc	1-1, M.Will	iams 1-1,
edd 0-2, Van Horn 0-2	James 0-2). Fouled
ut-None. Rebounds-	New Jersey	/ 46 (Col-
ns 11), Milwaukee 58	(Pachulia	12). As-
ists-New Jersey 19 (K	idd 7), Milw	aukee 22
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SuperSonics 103, Hornets 85

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Mavericks 101, Jazz 83

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DALLAS - Howard 7-13 3-91 8, Alenderson 0-0-0, Nowitzki 7-2 15-16 28, Terry 4-6
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TOTAN - Killenko 3-16-2-5-3 101. 6-12, Harpring 1-6
UTAN - Killenko 3-16-2-5-3 101. 6-12, Harpring 1-6
UTAN - 6-6-6-8, Borthard 4-6-1-19,
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13, Humphries 1-10-0-7, Totals 2-7-5-6-39

Dallas

Dallas

Three-Point Goals—Ballas 8-17 (Filley 3-6, Dev Harris 2-3, Daniels 1-1, Howard 1-2, Terry Dev Harris 2-3, Lincoto 1-2, Kritento 3-1, Especial 1-2, Horizon 1-2,

Nuggets 107, Celtics 86

BOSTON — Pierce 5-13 5-8 16, LaFrentz 2-7 0-05, Blount 2-50-04, Payton 4-11 1-29, Allen 4-10 4-6 12, Jefferson 3-5 3-4 9, Perkins 0-2 2-2 2, West 6-10 4-6 17, Davis 4-13 4-5 12, Gugliot-ta 0-2 0-0 0, Banks 0-1 0-0 0, Welsch 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 30-80 23-33 86. Totals 30-80 23-33 86. DENVER — Martin 8-17 2-4 18, Anthony 3-14 12-14 19, Camby 3-7 0-0 6, DJohnson 5-9 2-2 14, Miller 7-14 8-9 22, Elson 4-6 0-4 8, Boykins 27-3-3 8, Russell 1-4-0-0 3, White 3-7 0-0 8, Ts-kitishviil 0-3 1-2 1, Pope 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-88 28-38 107

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Spurs 99. Rockets 81

Spurs 99, McOcket 51

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1-7 Milm 2-7 Milm 2-7 Milm 2-7 4 8, Randolph 3-17 12-17 12-17 13-17

Suns 118, Clippers 101

Suns 118, Clippers 101

LA CLIPPERS - Simmons 51 H 4-5 23, Brand 7:14 3-5 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 15, Brandon 14, 3-5 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 15, Brandon 14, 3-5 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 15, Brandon 14, 3-6 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 15, Brandon 14, 3-6 17, Ross 5-12 5-6 17, Ross 5-12 5-12, Ross 6-12 5-12, Ross 6-12, Ross 6-1

Warriors 101, Hawks 96

Warriors 101.1, Hawks 95
ATLANTA - Harrington 7-16-0 14, I.Smith
2-8 1-2 5, Walker 11-25-0-2 27, Childress 8-17
1-217, Luce 5-9 1-112, Ekzelo - 22-22, Ivey 1-2
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8-15-3-4 20, Claston 4-12-4-6-12, Murphy 1-8
4-6 6, Davis 1-3 2-4-4, Cheaney 1-3-0-4, Na19-19-2-2-0-0 10-10sla 5-68-2 12-8 101.



Robinson. Mashburn dealt away

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - The Philadelphia 76ers completed their second trade in two days, sending forward Glenn Robinson to the New Orleans Hornets for Jamal Mashburn and Rodney Rogers on Thursday.

Both Robinson and Mashburn have yet to play for their teams this year. Mashburn has a knee injury and might never play again. Robinson,



earning more than \$12 million in the final year of his contract is on the injured

list with left ankle tendinitis, though he's been unhappy since losing his starting forward spot in training camp.

"We knew what we wanted to do if we were going to move him," Sixers president Billy King said. "If this deal with Rodney didn't come about, we were not going to do a deal just to be moving Glenn."

Rogers can become a free agent at the end of the year. His three-point shooting fits nicely with coach Jim O'Brien's offensive philosophy, but Rogers is only averaging 9.3 points and shooting just 27.5 percent from three-point range

Rogers played for O'Brien in Boston.

Mashburn is making \$9.3 mil-lion this year and \$10.1 million next year, but seems likely to retire because of his knee injury. He hasn't played since last March and won't play for the Sixers, King said.
The Sixers dramatically re-



The Philadelphia 76ers traded forward Glenn Robinson to the New Orleans Hornets Thursday.

shaped their roster late Wednesday night, acquiring five-time All-Star Chris Webber from Sacramento as part of a six-player deal.

Cavs get Welsch from Celtics

CLEVELAND - The Cleveland Cavaliers addressed their need for a dependable outside shooter Thursday by acquiring guard Jiri Welsch from the Boston Celtics for a 2007 first-round draft pick.

Welsch, who started 32 games for Boston this season, should help the Cavaliers improve their woeful three-point shooting. After going 1-for-7 on three-pointers in Wednesday night's win over Chicago the Cavaliers are ranked 27th out of 30 teams in the NBA from beyond the three-point line.

Welsch has made 32 of 99 three-point attempts this season. He's averaging 7.5 points and 2.5 rebound in 20.5 minutes per game.Cleveland has been interested in Welsch for some time.

The club considered trading the No. 10 overall pick in last year's draft for him. Instead, they used the selection on rookie Luke Jackson, out for the season after back surgery.

Spurs finally solve Rockets

SAN ANTONIO - Tracy McGrady could only watch this time while Tony Parker led the San Antonio Spurs to victory.

Parker made three inside baskets including a rare dunk off his own steal, during a decisive 14-3 run in the fourth quarter of a 99-81 win over the Houston Rock-

ets on Wednesday night. Parker went 6-for-7 in the second half and finished with 22 points, but Spurs coach Gregg Popovich only wanted to talk about his defense

"On defense, he sealed the game for us," Popovich said. "Nobody notices it, they just notice what people do offensively, but on defense, he was very, very

Parker had a season-high five steals.

In the first Spurs-Rockets matchup in early December. McGrady stunned San Antonio by scoring 13 points in the final 35 seconds to lead Houston to a one-point win.

In the second Rockets triumph, McGrady hit a three-pointer with 35 seconds remaining to end the Spurs' comeback hones.

But on Wednesday, the last of his team-high 22 points came on a layup with five minutes left to bring the Rockets within three at 79-76. He took only one more shot, missing a three-pointer with San Antonio leading by 15.

"I think I'm being too passive, said McGrady, who shot only 7-for-21. "I'm trying to stay in the offense and getting the other guys involved - that's how we've been winning. Sometimes it'll hurt us because I do need to be more ef-

The victory was the Spurs' first in three tries against Houston this season, and their 16th straight win at home. San Antonio is 24-1 at the SBC Center.

Tim Duncan scored 30 points, including his third three-pointer of the season, and had 11 rebounds for the Spurs. Manu Ginobili added 18 points

Yao Ming had 20 points and Juwan Howard 16 for the Rockets, who dropped their second in a row after winning eight straight before the All-Star break.

"We're struggling to score don't think we had a field goal off the bench tonight," said Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy, whose rewent 0-for-11.

Roundup

Spurs | had another level That's why they're the best team in the league.'

Cavaliers 100, Bulls 91: At Cleveland, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and LeBron James scored 41 of Cleveland's 57 points in the sec-

Ilgauskas scored 33 points 26 after halftime - and added eight rebounds and seven blocks, matching a career high. James finished with 27 points, 11 assists, six rebounds and five steals as the Cavaliers improved to 21-5 at

Wizards 93, Grizzlies 83: At Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored 30 points and Antawn Jamison added 27 to lead the Wizards

Arenas had 10 rebounds and six assists as the Wizards ended a three-game losing streak and won their fifth in a row at home.

Bucks 100. Nets 81: Desmond Mason scored 15 points. and ZaZa Pachulia tied his career high with 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead host Milwau-

Michael Redd, who missed the st three games before the All-Star break because of a sprained index finger, scored 11 points as Milwaukee won for fifth time in seven games Vince Carter had 26 points and

Jason Kidd added 11 points and seven assists for the Nets who haven't heaten the Bucks at the Bradley Center in the regular season since a 108-80 victory on March 10, 2000

SuperSonics 103, Hornets 85: Rashard Lewis made six three-pointers and scored 26 three-pointers and scored points as visiting Seattle beat New Orleans for the fourth straight time.

Lewis made eight of 11 shots from the field and six of eight three-pointers — one more than the Hornets, capping the performance with a perfect night at the free throw line where he was

Ray Allen scored 25 points for Seattle, including 5-for-11 from three-point range. Luke Ridnour had 14 points, Antonio Daniels 11, and Ronald Murray added 13.

Reggie Evans grabbed 14 re-

Nuggets 107, Celtics 86: At Denver, the Nuggets made it seem like old times, running to a victory over Boston to give Doug Moe a win in his first game back on the bench as George Karl's new assistant.

Andre Miller scored 22 points Carmelo Anthony had 19 and Kenyon Martin had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets.

Seeking some help on the bench, Karl persuaded Moe, his old North Carolina buddy and the winningest coach in Nuggets history, to sit by him for the final 29 games of the season. Moe agreed and the Nuggets played a lot like they did when he was coaching to 432 victories from

Suns 118, Clippers 101: Leandro Barbosa, playing in place of the injured Steve Nash, scored a season-high 22 points, helping the Suns hand the Los Angeles Clippers their eighth consecutive loss — all on the road.

The victory over the depleted Clippers gave the Suns a 42-13 record and assured them of a winning season with 27 games re-The loss ended a disastrous

nine-game road trip - the longest in the NBA this season — for the Clippers, whose only victory during the journey came in their opening game against Memphis.

Mavericks 101, Jazz 83: Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 of his 29 points in the second half and visiting Dallas rallied after blowing a -point lead. Josh Howard added 18 points

and nine rebounds and Michael Finley scored 24 for the Mavericks, who won their fifth straight. Lakers 86, Trail Blazers 83:

At Portland, Ore., Kobe Bryant had 31 points and Los Angeles held off a second-half Portland

Shareef Abdur-Rahim missed a three-point attempt at the final buzzer, giving the Lakers their third straight win.

Warriors 101, Hawks 96: Jason Richardson scored 31 points, Derek Fisher added 20 and the Golden State sent Atlanta to its 17th straight road loss. Troy Murphy had a

son-high 20 rebounds for the Warriors after missing their final 10 games before the All-Star break with a broken left thumb.

Trade: Iverson, 76ers finally get help inside

TRADE FROM BACK PAGE

"If there's anything we need it's definitely a big man," he said Monday. "A big man would help us a lot, especially a big man that can rebound and block shots." Webber, the No. 1 overall pick

in 1993 following a stellar career at Michigan, has played excep-tionally well for the Kings in reweeks, averaging points, 9.7 rebounds and 5.5 assists per game - though he isn't the athlete he was before knee Williamson, a first-round draft

pick by the Kings in 1995, played five years in Sacramento before being traded to Toronto for Doug Christie following the 1999-00 sea son. The NBA's top sixth man in 2001-02 with the Pistons, Williamson is averaging 10.8 points and 3.7 rebounds this season.

Thomas, an undersized power forward with a reliable jumper, fell out of favor with coach Jim O'Brien this season, while Skinner was a free-agent bust.

Barnes, a Sacramento native, has been a seldom-used reserve for the Kings this season, though he took Stojakovic's spot in the starting lineup recently. Bradley was acquired earlier in the season in Sacramento's deal for Moblev, but hasn't played much.

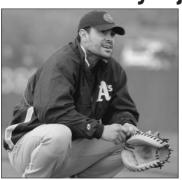
Petrie had never made a significant in-season trade before this season, but made two in recent weeks: The Kings acquired Cuttino Mobley from Orlando for Christie last month, beginning his most radical reshaping of Sacramento's roster since 1999.

Stojakovic, Bibby and injured guard Bobby Jackson are the only remaining Kings who were with the team in the 2003 play-"I think we can still have a very

good basketball team the remainder of the season," Petrie said. "It's going to be a challenge with the amount of change we've made now, because I'm trying to blend in even more new faces with 29 games to go. I have a lot of confidence in our remaining nucleus."



Kendall already enjoying Athletics' winning vibe



Oakland Athletics catcher Jason Kendall, who's hoping for a change after nine losing seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates, hit .319 last season and has a .306 career batting average.

BY JANIE MCCAULEY The Associated Press

PHOENIX - Jason Kendall could sense a winning vibe from the moment he walked into Oakland's spring training complex.

It's quite a change from what he's been used to after spending nine losing seasons in Pittsburgh.

"I kind of feel like a rookie in a roundabout way," the Athletics new catcher said Wednesday 'We've just got a bunch of good guys. Everybody's cool. Not to say that wasn't the case over there, but you walk into the clubhouse and the atmosphere is like, 'Hey, you know what, get your work done and come April 4. let's go

Kendall will be counted upon to nurture the A's young pitching staff and also help this club get back on track after it missed the playoffs for the first time in five

The A's acquired Kendall in a November trade that left-handed pitchers Mark Redman and Arthur Rhodes to the Pi-

The Pirates had tried to swan

ently were in serious talks with the San Diego Padres in 2003 but nothing got done.

General manager Billy Beane admired Kendall from afar for years, and Kendall waived his no-trade clause to play for a contender closer to his Manhattan Beach, Calif., home. The decision took a "half-second," he said.

awesome. rookie right-hander Joe Blanton said of having Kendall around. "Any time you can throw to somebody like that, it's just great. He's been catching for that long and he's been in the game and knows the

Kendall is spending his early days in spring training meeting pitchers and learning their personalities and tendencies. A three-time All-Star and .306 career hitter, he likely will bat sec-

ond behind Mark Kotsay. Kendall mostly hit leadoff last season and hatted 319 "Kendall is a blue-collar guy

and a guy I've admired just watch-ing him play," A's first baseman Scott Hatteberg said. "I'm excited to see him on a daily basis

do with pitchers, Kendall believes a big part of spring training is just getting back in a routine for him, being back down in the catcher's stance for hours at a

It always takes his body a few days to adjust.

Kendall appreciates the business approach of the A's, who are known for having one of baseball's most easygoing clubhouses in recent years.

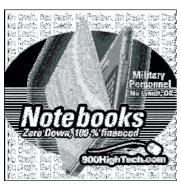
"Everybody knows what they have to do to get ready for a sea-son." Kendall said. "Go about Kendall said. your business and get your work in. We're treated like grown men,

which is the way it should be." Kendall enjoys the daily duties of studying hitters and prepping pitchers. He expects a fairly smooth adjustment to the American League. This will be his 10th big league season, so he's seen most everybody at some point.

"In baseball today, everybody changes teams." he said. "I couldn't tell you what 30 times 30 is, but I can tell what I threw Todd Helton three years ago on a 2-1 count.



San Francisco Giants right fielder Moises Alou, left, listens to his father, Giants manager Felipe Alou on Wednesday in Scottsdale, Ariz.



Bonds, Grissom, Alou make up old but talented Giants outfield

BY JANIE MCCAULEY The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — A day after his bizarre news confer ence, Barry Bonds took a break from knee treatment to hand out a few hitting tips to Moises Alou and Marquis Grissom.

These three will make up one old outfield this season. Bonds, the left fielder chasing

the home run record, is 40. Alon San Francisco's new right fielder, is 38. And Grissom is the 37-year-old center fielder.

They aren't concerned about their age, even if having fresh legs might mean taking a few more days off this season. All three could be seen leaning on the back of the batting cage at the same time Wednesday, when the Giants held their first full-squad

"I think it's an advantage," said manager Felipe Alou, Moises' fa-The older outfielders are going to be asked a lot of questions. They all know they're going

to need their days off." That's where Michael Tucker comes in. He'll be the top backup, expected to give the old guys a reprieve whenever needed.

"We're all old on our team, so it's going to be interesting," Bonds said. "I'm going to talk to Michael Tucker a lot. We're going to go three days and then Tucker is going to play 162 - left, center, right, left, center, right — while the rest of us take some time off."

While trainer Stan Conte prefers to call them veterans, the players' teammates are already having fun with the age jokes

Reliever Scott Eyre carried a chair onto the field for a team meeting Wednesday, offering Bonds a seat since he's nursing two surgically repaired knees.



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds, left, gives tips from behind the batting cage to new teammate Moises Alou, right, at Scottsdale Stadium in Scottsdale, Ariz... on Wednesday.

Eyre isn't the only one. David Forst, the Oakland Athletics' assistant general manager, took a friendly jab at the team across San Francisco Bay during a recent baseball luncheon, Forst ngratulated the Giants on their 48th year in San Francisco, then noted it was also the average age

But they're productive all right. Bonds, Grissom and Alou accounted for 106 home runs and 297 RBIs last season.

of the team's outfield.

walking Bonds.

Alou, who hit a career-high 39 homers with 106 RBIs last season

for the Chicago Cubs, will bat be-hind Bonds. Everybody hopes Alou's presence will cause oppos ing managers to think twice about

Bonds had 45 homers and 101 RBIs last year, and begins his 20th major league season 11 homers shy of Babe Ruth (714) and 52 short of Hank Aaron (755) on the career list

"You know, I know that I'm older now," said Bonds, who turns 41 in July. "I put my body through a lot in 147 games last year. I played more games than anyone on my team. I'm still trying to recover from that. But the most part is just my knees. I have to be able to play at the level that I want to play at.

Grissom hit 22 homers and drove in 90 runs last season, and he spent his winter watching a lot more film in an effort to improve his production.

The Giants picked up Gris som's \$2.75 million option in November.

'We all are proven," Grissom said of the old guys. "There's a lot of experience, so I don't think it should be a problem. Holding up wise. I think we'll all do pretty good. At the end, we're looking to

go to postseason play. I'm not expecting anything less out of myself or the other two guvs either. And Tucker refuses to worry about his diminished role. He knows the other three will need

their days off.

"You can't really be upset with what's gone on," Tucker said. "Look at what the outfield situa-

tion looks like - you've got maybe a future Hall of Fame left fielder, you've got an All-Star center fielder and you bring in another All-Star outfielder to play

"They're up there in age, man. But at the same time, all three guys are still really capable of putting up the same numbers they have in the past."

Tucker, 34, started in 114 of his 140 games last season - with 97 starts in right and 17 in center. A 10-year veteran, he batted .256 with 13 homers and a career-high 62 RRIs

Sosa's powerful display wows Orioles

Slugger reports to camp; Red Sox put final touches on ring ceremony

Sammy Sosa introduced himself to his new Baltimore teammates the best way he knew: with a power display



baseballs far over the center-field wall during his first workout with the Orioles in

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Wednesday. Before he was done, nearly half the squad interrupted their drills to watch the show

"Sammy, we're going to run out of balls!" joked outfielder Larry Bigbie, who watched in awe as one shot after another soared onto an airfield behind the practice field

The Chicago Cubs were relieved to get rid of Sosa after his troubled 2004 season, and the Orioles are delighted to have him

During his stay in Chicago, Sosa battled with Mark McGwire in a memorable home run duel in 1998, went to the All-Star Game seven times and was the 1998 NL MVP. But he contends that the corked bat and his early departure from the ballpark ruined an otherwise wonderful relationship. "For the 13 years I was in Chica-

go, I only made two mistakes That's pretty good," he said. "If I had known that leaving early last year would have caused such a controversy I would have never done it. My manager told me I had a day off. But what can I say?

In Fort Myers, Fla., the Boston Red Sox learned they will get their World Series rings at their home opener on April 11 before a sold-out Fenway Park crowd and the New York Yankees.

"I'm sure I'm not going to help them hand them out." Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter said to laughter at New York's camp in

"But they deserve it. I'm sure they've been looking forward to this for a long time. So let them do

Boston became the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 deficit in the playoffs, doing it against their biggest rival in the AL championship series last October. The Red Sox then swept St. Louis in the World Series.

"This is the kind of quality problem I hope we're going to be able



In Lakeland, Fla., Tigers reliever Ugueth Urbina spoke with reporters for the first time about the rescue of his kidnanned mother.



In his first workout with the Orioles, Sammy Sosa hit two dozen balls far over the center-field wall in Fort Lauderdale. Fla., on Wednesday.

to have with some frequency," Red Sox President Larry Lucchino said, "sit around at spring training and decide just when, oh when, do we give out the World Series championship rings.

To accommodate fans who didn't get tickets to Opening Day, the rings will be displayed at a welcome-home dinner attended by players that same night and at a display on the Fenway Park field along with the World Series trophy and the ball Doug Mientkiewicz caught for the last out of the Series

Even though the fans are not getting it, they have to feel like they're receiving one because they all deserve it," David Ortiz said. "They supported us a lot through the years.

In Lakeland, Fla., Ugueth Urbina said he planned to report to spring training, even if his kidnanned mother still was being

He didn't want to show her captors that he was weak. Now that Maura Villarreal is safe following a rescue operation Friday, Urbina said an indescribable weight has been lifted from his shoulders.

"I feel like I'm 18 years old," the Detroit Tigers reliever said, speaking publicly about the ordeal for the first time.

Villarreal, 54, was rescued by Venezuelan police during an eight-hour raid that left two of her abductors dead, two captured and seven others as fugitives. Police described the kidnappers as Venezuelan and Colombian drug

She was held for 5 months, 18 days in a camp that police called a drug-traffickers' hideout in Venezuela's southern mountains. Urbina and his two brothers

Ulmer and Ulises, were at a loss. "There wasn't much we could tion, and we didn't know where she was," Urbina said. "Where can you go to try to find her? She could be anywhere. It's hard.

'It's not like the movies. It's real life " In Winter Haven, Fla., Cleve-

land's Juan Gonzalez became the latest player to deny Jose Canseco's accusation of using steroids.

'It's not true. ... I never saw needles. I never saw pills. I never saw anything. ... The only guys who have put needles in my body are doctors." Gonzalez said.

In Kissimmee, Fla., Atlanta shortstop Rafael Furcal hustled off the field, ignoring several television crews that wanted to speak with him. At his locker a few minutes later, he responded tersely to an interview request: "Are you going to ask me about baseball?"

He spent 13 days in jail during the offseason and four weeks in an alcohol treatment center following his second conviction for drunken driving. The 26-year-old Furcal gave up alcohol after his latest arrest, but also said he doesn't believe he has a drinking problem.

"Just bad luck," he said.

In Scottsdale, Ariz., manager Felipe Alou said he thinks he'll probably be back with the San Francisco Giants for a fourth season in 2006.

His contract ends after this season and Alou turns 70 in May, but he has shown he still has enough energy to lead the Giants for 162 games. He also wants to manage his son, Moises, for another sea-

In Bradenton, Fla., Pittsburgh said catching prospect J.R. House underwent surgery to repair a torn labrum and torn rotator cuff in Birmingham, Ala., and he'll miss the entire season

Temple's Chaney suspends himself for one game

PHILADELPHIA — Temple basketball coach John Chanev suspended himself Wednesday for one game and apologized for putting a player in against Saint Joseph's a day earlier for the sole purpose of rough play and quick fouls



Chaney offered the self-imposed suspension after meeting with Temnle President David Ada many and athletic director Bill Bradshaw. He

will be replaced on the bench by assistant Dan Leibovitz for Saturday's game against Massachusetts

"I would like to apologize to Saint Joseph's University, its fans, student-athletes and head coach Phil Martelli for my reprehensible behavior during Tuesday night's game," Chaney said in a statement. "I spoke with Coach Martelli today to voice my apology to him and his team

Chaney said he was not surprised by reaction to Tuesday's home game.

"I'm either good or bad in some people's eyes," Chaney said in a brief telephone in-terview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. "There's no gray area. I apologized to the people that matter most.

Adamany also reacted to some Temple students spitting in the direction of Saint



ting in players solely to hard fouls during a loss to Saint Joseph's.

punished

himself

for put-

Joe's players and cheerleaders. He said the first few rows of the student section at the Liacouras Center would be empty for Saturday's game as a reminder they should uphold the standards of good sportsmanship Upset by what he thought were illegal screens by Saint Joseph's that were not peing called, Chane turned

dom-used 6-foot-8, 250-pound Nehemiah Ingram to "send a message. Ingram started throwing his arms around and tossing elbows, once connecting hard to the chin of Hawks center Dwayne Jones, and had a hard foul on John Bryant that left him sprawled on the Ingram fouled out in 4 minutes, his aver-

age playing time for a game this season. Chaney said after the game he was going to send in a "goon."

"Ingram was not the only person I put in there," Chaney said Wednesday. "I put three or four players in there and were telling them to make hard fouls.

Chaney, called for a technical in the second half after berating officials, said he never wanted his players to hurt anyone.

Injury ends Marquette star's season

MILWAUKEE - Travis Diener's college career is over thanks to a broken hand, leaving him 83 points short of surpassing George Thompson as Marquette's career leading scorer.

Diener, a Cousy Award finalist as the nation's top point guard, broke his left hand Tuesday and underwent surgery that night. Diener leads Conference USA with averages of 19.7 points and seven assists, and is

the only player in the country to lead a major conference in both categories The Golden Eagles are 18-8, 6-7 in Conference USA

NASCAR penalizes R. Gordon

DAYTONA REACH Fla - Robby Gordon Motorsports was fined \$50,000

Wednesday and docked 25 championship points, the most severe penalty for violations at Daytona International Speedway. NASCAR fined crew chief Bob Temple

and deducted points from car owner Jim Smith for an unapproved intake manifold on his Chevrolet on Feb. 11 during the initial Nextel Cup inspection for the season-opening Daytona 500.

Gordon, driver and part owner of the new team, failed to make the starting lineup for the Daytona 500 and has no points. Smith earned 31 based on qualifying results.

The Wood Brothers Racing team was assessed four penalties because of an unapproved spoiler adjustment found on the Ford driven by Ricky Rudd. He was penalized 25 points, Glen Wood lost owner points, crew chief Michael McSwain was fined \$25,000 and crew member Marc Smith was suspended from NASCAR competition until March 31

Hantuchova advances to Oatar semis DOHA, Oatar - Daniela Hantuchova of

Slovakia beat veteran Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-1 in a rain-interrupted quarterfinal of the Qatar Open on Thursday. Top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo.

ond-seeded Maria Sharapova and No. 4 seed Alicia Molik were scheduled to play quarterfinal matches Thursday in the \$600,000 tournament.

Ramstein boys reach **semifinals**

BY RUSTY BRYAN Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany - The Ramstein Royals were hoping the third time would be the charm when they squared off against cross-town rival Kaiserslautern in Thursday night's late semifinal game of the boys' European Division I basketball tournament.

The second-seeded Royals advanced after going 3-0 in nool play, setting up the game against Kaiserslautern, runner-up in the other bracket. K-town has beaten Ramstein on the court twice this season, although the Royals were awarded a victory via forfeiture when an ineligibile player slipped through pregame checks for the second game

"We're playing the best we have all year," said Ramstein coach Len Tarnowski after the Royals closed out the pool-play portion of the tournament Thurs day morning with a 55-37 victory over sixth-seeded International School of Brussels. "We've been focused right off the bat so far."



MICHAEL ARRAMS/Stars and Strines

London Central's Danny Melville drives past Sigonella's Chris Cerame in a Division III in an opening-round tournament game on Thursday in Mannheim, Germany. London Central defeated Sigonella 57-51.

Ste'phan James scored 13 points, Allen Weaver had 10, Whitney McCloud nine, and Bren-nan Relaford and Marquiston Showers eight each against ISB. The Royals had earlier beaten Wiesbaden 53-47 and Lakenheath 52-31. Kaiserslautern finished 1-1 in its pool play, including a big win, 45-32, Wednesday against five-time defending champion Heidelberg.

"This is the third time we've played them. Let's hope we've learned something," Tarnowski said

The game was scheduled to tip off at 8 p.m., after this edition of Stars and Stripes went to press. Thursday's other semifinal pitted Würzburg against Wiesbaden.

Wiesbaden tops Lakenheath: Justin King scored 21 points Thursday morning, but it wasn't enough to keep the Lancers (1-2) from elimination from the Divi-

sion Levent Robert Edwards paced Wiesbaden (2-1) with 12 points as the Warriors finished second in their bracket and will play Würzburg (2-0), winner of the other bracket.

Hanau escapes Bitburg: Guard Malcolm Lane scored 20 points

and grabbed 12 rebounds, both game highs, as top-seeded Hanau defeated No. 7 Bitburg 50-48 in overtime Wednesday, Ivan James contributed six steals as Hanau rallied from nine points down in the fourth quarter to force the extra period

Mannheim rallies past BFA: Jamal Womble scored 23 points as third-seeded Mannheim outscored No. 6 Black Forest Academy 17-11 over the game's final seven minutes to claim a 44-40 victory that left the Bison at 2-0 at the end of Day 1 in the Division II event. BFA fell to 1-1.

Rota, Hohenfels get Div. III started: Third-seeded Rota downed Giessen 59-36 and Ho-henfels edged Vicenza 60-59 Thursday as the Division III tournament got under way. Top-seed-ed Ansbach and second-seeded Bamberg will join the Division III bracket Friday when the tourney goes to an eight-team single-elimination format.

Brussels stays perfect in Division IV: Brussels edged Livorno 48-46 Thursday to improve its record in the boys Division IV event to 3-0.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryann@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Ramstein, K-town girls to vie for title

BY RUSTY BRYAN Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM Germany Neighboring rivals Ramstein and Kaiserslautern, who between them have won seven of the last eight girls' European Division I basketball crowns, will make it eight of nine Friday when they square off in the final.

Their semifinals Thursday couldn't have been more different. Ramstein rolled past defending champion Lakenheath 55-22, while top-seeded Kaiserslautern had to go to the line to defeat third-seeded Heidelberg 41-36.

Ramstein used a relentess defense to beat Lakenheath. "We said right before the game that defense would win the game for us, Ramstein's Krissy Grosselin said. "We played how we knew we could." Grosselin had 28 points despite

sitting out the fourth quarter. She scored eight points and made four assists off steals produced by double-teaming every Lakenheath player who made the mistake of picking up her dribble. The tactic produced 9-0 and 8-0 second-quarter runs for Ramstein, and a 32-14 halftime lead.

Lakenheath, which defeated Ramstein 59-57 in last year's title game, also was hampered by the absence of all-conference guard Meme Smith, declared ineligible for the tournament for undisclosed reasons. Megan Carradine led the Lancers with 13 points.

The game was a continuation of the defensive dominance Ramstein demonstrated in Wednesday's 37-33 pool-play victory over Kaiserslautern. Ramstein out-scored K-town, which defeated the Lady Royals twice in January. 15-1 over the opening seven minutes and never looked back.

In its semifinal Kaiserslautern made 27 of 36 free throws.

Bianca Gerena-Perez, a 60 percent free-throw shooter during the regular season, led the way, hitting nine of nine after missing her first try Thursday. She hit four straight in the first 2:46 of the fourth period after Heidelberg cut the deficit to 23-22. Dupe Babatude led Kaiserslaut-

ern with 10 points eight of them in the final period and six of those on nine free-throw attempts. Patch stuns Naples: In a Divi-

sion II pool-play game Wednes-day night, Nicole Anderson sank



MICHAEL ARRAMS/Stars and Strings

SHAPE's Devina Marquez, left, tries to stop Kassie Mangosing of Aviano in girls Division II action on Thursday in Heidelberg, Germany. Aviano won 36-29.

the winning free throw with less than 10 seconds to play as fifth-seeded Patch pinned the first defeat of the season on Naples 38-37

No. 8 Milan dumps Iceland: Lauren Leismer made an 8-foot put-back basket with seven seconds to play Thursday, giving the eighth-seeded Panthers a 37-35 rictory over fourth-seeded Iceland in the Division IV tourney.

The win, which came after Iceland's Candise Apling hit a three from the left wing with 35 seconds left to tie the game at 35, left Milan with a 2-1 pool-play record. Iceland fell to 1-2.

Rota, Hohenfels cruise: In the Division III tournament that began Thursday, third-seeded Rota crushed Bamberg 52-33, and No. 4 Hohenfels stopped the American Overseas School of Rome 42-27. Top-seeded Ans-bach, the defending Division III champion, and second-seeded Sigonella were idle Thursday, and will join the top six from Thursday's play in an eight-team, single-elimination bracket Friday.

Championships for Divisions I and IV are scheduled for Friday. Divisions II and III will play their finals on Saturday at Mannheim.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryann@mail.estripes.osd.mil

European basketball championships scoreboard

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MANNHEIM, Germäny — Late first-day re-sults Wednesday and early results Thursday from the European Divisions I, II, III and IV high school basketball tournaments which end Saturday (pool-play games are 7-minute quarters; semifinals and finals are 8-minute quarters):

Division II
Aviano 67, Patch 51
Mannheim 44, Black Forest Academy 40
Hanau 50, Bitburg 48 (OT)
Division IV
Iceland 61, Alconbury 45

Heidelberg 38, Wiesbaden 27 Ramstein 37, Kaiserslautern 33 Division II Vilseck 43, Bitburg 27 Patch 38, Naples 37 Hanau 53, Aviano 38 Mannheim 40, AFNORTH 28

Division IV an 45, Incirlik 30 Issels 30, Menwith Hill 13 es 30, Ankara 26 Thursday's gam Thursday's games
Boys
Division I
Pool play
esbaden 48, Lakenheath 42
mstein 55, International School of Brus

Mannheim 67, Patch 59 Hanau 52, Vilseck 42 Rlack Force Mannheim 67, Patch 59 Hanau 52, Vilseck 42 Black Forest Academy 55, SHAPE 38 Naples 48, Bibturg 37 Aviano 53, Mannheim 40 Vilseck 45, AFNORTH 31 Patch 59, SHAPE 46 Hanau vs. Naples, late Bibturg vs. AFNORTH, late Aviano vs. BFA, late Division III Hohenfels 60, Vicenza 59

Hohentels 60, Vicenza 59
Rota 59, Giessen 36
London Central 69, Sigon Overseas School
Hohentels 46, American Overseas School
Giessen 46, Marymount 30
Sigonella vs. Baumholder, late
Vicenza vs. AOSR, late
Vicenza vs. AOSR, late
London Central Division Vicenza
Brussel 48, Livorno 46
Iceland 47, Ankara 44 (OT)
Alconbury 48, Milla 17
Alconbury 48, Milla 18
Alconbury 48, Milla 18
Alconbury 48, Milla 18
Alconbury 48 Semifinals Issels vs. Alconbury

Pool play Lakenheath 25, Wiesbaden 2 Semifinals Ramstein 55, Lakenheath 22 Kaiserslautern 41. Heide Division II Hanau 38, Bitburg 22

Mannheim 39, Patch 38 (OT) Aviano 36, SHAPE 29 Aviano 36, SHAPE 29
Naples 50, AFNORTH 20
Vilseck 42, Hanau 38
Patch 28 Black Forest Academy 8
AFNORTH vs. BFA, late
Mannheim vs. Naples, late
Vilseck vs. Aviano, late
Division III Hohenfels 42, American Overseas School

of Rome 27
Rota 52, Bamberg 33
Baumholder 37, London Central 27
Glessen 53, AOSR 11
Bamberg 51, Marymount 14
Baumholder 55, Vicenza 17
Hohenfels vs. Glessen, late
Rota vs. Marymount, late
London Central vs. Vicenza, late

Menwith Hill 28, Lajes 19 Milan 37, Iceland 35 Semifinal Semifinals Alconbury 49, Menwith Hill 26 Brussels vs. Milan. Jata

FACING STRIPES A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS



Tony Stewart signs autographs for fans in the garage area of the Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 18. Stewart, who has won IRL and Nextel Cup series titles, might be content to walk away from racing if he could win the Indy and Daytona 500s,

Eye on the finish line

Stewart already making plans for life after racing

44 If I could get

everuthing done I

want to get done.

I would probably

be gone from here

by now.77

Tony Stewart

BY JENNA FRYER The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

ony Stewart is someday going to break through and win the big races that always seem to get away from him. He's had chances at his beloved Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and has had victory in sight at the Daytona 500, only to come up short

If Stewart ever scores those wins, he might just climb out of his car and call it a career.
"If I could get everything done I want to get done,

at the very end

I would probably be gone from here by now — I would have won everything I wanted to win," Stewart said

When the day comes that Stewart quits full-time racing, he'll walk away with a résumé that will rank him among the most talented drivers ever.

He has nine championships in various forms of racing, starting with a Karting title he won in 1980 at 8 years old. He was the first driver in history to win USAC's Triple Crown in 1995 and he won the IRL series title in 1997. He then became the first IRL driver to successfully transition into NASCAR, where he claimed the 2002 series championship

Those championships have given Stewart a great-er respect for the crown jewels on every schedule. He understands what an Indianapolis 500 title means to a driver's résumé, and the same for a Daytona 500 victory. A driver can win 100 championships, but will for-

ever be recognized for the big wins.
"I remember what it was like to win the IRL championship," Stewart said. "The next year, it was a weight lifted off my shoulders. I could concentrate on individual races. I didn't even look hardly at the

points sheet Perhaps that explains why Stewart hasn't really been a factor in the NASCAR's championship race since his 2002 title. He's already got

that trophy, its the others he needs to complete his career

He came close again last weekend, leading a race-high 107 laps in

But with the finish line in sight, he again had the biggest win of his career snatched away when good buddy Dale Earnhardt Jr. pushed him out of the draft during a late-race pass for the lead and Stewart was shuffled back into traffic.

He ended up a distant seventh, bitterly disappointed again after joining the late Dale Earnhardt in the record book for

futility. Earnhardt was the last driver to dominate the race and not win, leading 107 laps in 1993 and fail-ing to earn a trip to Victory Lane.

Stewart led the most laps at Daytona last year, too. But in the end, Earnhardt Jr. had the better car and Stewart ended up pushing him to the win. Stewart is 0-for-7 in the Daytona 500 and the first

driver since Bobby Allison to lead the most laps in consecutive 500s since he did it in 1981 and 1982. But Allison won in 1982

Stewart is still trying. "We could write a book about it. How many years did Dale Earnhardt go through it?" crew chief Greg Zipadelli moaned. "Hopefully we don't have to wait that long (20 years) to win one of these things.

As long as the title eludes him, Stewart might stick around NASCAR He's made no secret of his desire to get out while

he's still young — he's 33 now — and is already plan-ning for his future. He owns teams in the World of Outlaws and USAC racing series and recently bought famed Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, Ohio

the dirt track where he started his career.

So now he spends his free time learning the ins

and outs of running a race track. For now, all he cares about is chasing those elu-

sive victories — his next battle comes in August at Indy's Brickyard 400 because he says he's taking a break from the heartbreaking Indianapolis 500 right now - and building his portfolio.

"I might be one of those guys who wakes up one morning and say 'I've had enough' or decide to sign another five-year contract," he said "You know me. It may depend on which way the wind's blowing right

NEXTEL CUP

Race 2: Auto Club 500 California Speedway 8 p.m. Sunday CET AFN-Atlantic

Last race: Jeff Gordon overtook Dale Earnhardt Jr. three laps from the scheduled end, then held off Kurt Busch and Earnhardt in extra laps to become only the fifth driver to win three Daytona 500s. There were four lead changes in the last nine lans and two crashes involving a total of 17 cars in the last 20 laps.

Last year: Gordon won his third Auto Club 500, finishing 12,871 seconds ahead of teammate Jimmie Johnson. He won the inaugural race in 1997 and again in 1999.

Driver to watch: Jeff Gordon



After 1 of 36 races

Kurt Busch	
Dale Earnhardt Jr	170
Scott Riggs	
Jimmie Johnson	160
. Tony Stewart	150
Mark Martin	150
Sterling Marlin	14
Kevin Lepage	13
0. Rusty Wallace	13
1. Elliott Sadler	
2. Joe Nemechek	
3. Carl Edwards	12
4. Dave Blaney	12

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Stater Bros. 300 at Fontana alif. (Tape-delayed, 9 a.m. CET Sunday

Last race: Tony Stewart drove through the grass, passed his buddy Dale Earnhardt Jr. and wound up winning the Hershey's Take 5

re: Mavico 200 March 6 Mavico City

FORMULA ONE

INDY BACING

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day, ARN-Sports).

Last race Bobby Hamilton was awarded the victory in the wreck-filled Florida Dodge Dealers 250 at Jayona International Speedway after Jimmy Spencer Initially took the Circle Hamilton took the lead after a restart with one lap to go, but Spencer was back in front when an eight-truck week started. However, before the caution flag came out, Hamilton moved back in front and became last starting position.

Next prace: World Florancial Group 200.

Next prace: World Florancial Group 200.

Next prace: World Florancial Group 200.

Next race: World Financial Group 200, March 18, Hampton, Ga.

CHAMP CARS

Standings for other series on Page 28.

Enigmatic Moss headed to Oakland

Vikings will reportedly get LB Harris, No. 7 pick and late-round selection

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Randy Moss' electrifying talent was no longer enough for the Minnesota Vikings to put up with his distracting antics.

tracting antics.

Dante DiTrapano, Moss' agent, told The
Associated Press on Wednesday that the Vikings and the Oakland Raiders had "come
to an agreement on Randy playing for Oak-

land next year."

Neither the Vikings nor the Raiders would confirm the deal, which was first re-

ported by The St. Paul Pioneer Press.
"We have had discussions with the Oak-land Raiders, but there's nothing to announce," Rob Brzezinski, Minnesota's vice president of football operations, told The Associated Press.

Raiders spokesman Mike Taylor said, "I cannot comment on the deal specifically, however, this organization has always been tremendously aggressive and Randy Moss rates with the great players of all-time. Great players want to play for the

Raiders."
DiTrapano said he didn't know the terms of the deal, but the Pioneer Press reported the Vikings would get linebacker Napoleon Harris, along with the seventh overall pick and a late-round pick in the upcoming draft. The deal cannot become official until March 2, the start of the NFL's fiscal year.

Moss is due to make \$7.25 million next year. Harris is due to make \$5.41 million. Oakland's renegade owner Al Davis has long embraced combustible players and the vertical passing game, so adding Moss seems to be a perfect fit. The timing of the move comes as a bit of a surprise with the Vikings in the midst of an ownership change. Red McCombs has agreed to sell the team to Arizona businessman Reggie Fowler, a deal that still needs to be approved by the NFL.

Trade rumors have surrounded the flamboyant Moss during the offseason.

boyant Moss during the offseason. He struggled with a hamstring injury, but had 13 touchdown catches last season. He was fined \$10,000 for pretending to pull down his pants and moon the Green Bay crowd during Minnesota's playoff win. He also drew criticism for leaving the field with 2 seconds left in a regular-season loss against Washington.

Team leaders Matt Birk and Daunte Culpepper confronted Moss after he walked off at Washington, and the organization's patience with the receiver seemed to dwindle in the past year or so.

"He's my good friend, but you almost get to thinking that maybe enough is enough," Culpepper said earlier this month at the Pro Bowl. "And maybe the Vikings organization has had enough."

zation has had enough."

Last year's transgressions were the latest in a long line of headline-grabbing negative behavior for Moss that included bumping a traffic control officer with his car in 2002, verbally abusing corporate sponsors on a team bus in 2001 and squirting an official with a water bottle in 1999.

But when he was focused and healthy on the field, there was no denying his consid-

His 9,142 receiving yards are the most by any player over his first seven seasons. The



Despite averaging 82 catches, 1,306 yards and 12.9 TD receptions while missing only three games in seven NFL seasons, most fans remember Randy Moss for mooning fans in Green Bay this January.

Vikings' offensive identity was built around Moss' uncanny ability to leap over smaller defensive backs to catch deep passes. But after the Vikings lost to Philadelphia

But after the Vikings lost to Philadelphia in the playoffs this season, coach Mike Tice talked of molding the Minnesota into a running team.

Perhaps in a veiled reference to Moss, Tice also said the Vikings needed leaders to emerge.

"Tve said many times before — until the leadership takes over the locker room, we're not going to make the big jump to where we need to be," Tice said in January, "The teams that are playing now—New England and Philadelphia — have tremendous leadership in their locker room. They take care of everything."

QB Bledsoe joins Dallas

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells turned to another of his former quarterbacks in hopes of getting the Dallas Cowboys back into the playoffs.

NFL the playoffs.
Drew Bledsoe, 33 was reunited with the

was reunited with the coach who made him the first overall pick in the NFL Draft 12 years ago, signing a three-year contract Wednesday that will further push back the ascension of Drew

Henson as the starter. The deal is worth about \$14 million, but much of that is packed into the final year. He received about a \$2 million signing bonus and will make about as much this season.

"I'm convinced that we were writing things off to have not had a yeatern."

"I'm convinced that we were writing things off to have not had a veteran quarterback," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "I'm not into, for our fans, almost by design having a season that's not competitive."

QB Fielder released by Dolphins

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins released quarterback Jay Fiedler on Wednesday, ending his five-year run as the maligned successor to Dan Marino.

Eagles tender RB Westbrook

PHILADELPHIA — The Eagles tenderd restricted free agent Brian Westbrook on Wednesday, giving Philadelphia the right to match any offer he receives or a first-round pick from any team that signs him.

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SPORTS



Racing Stripes: Still lacking victories in big events, Stewart plans for life after racing, Page 34

Kings move forward

Sacramento ships Webber to 76ers, gets little in return

BY GREG BEACHAM

Chris Webber finally left Sacramento — and for a whole lot less than a King's ransom.

than a King's ransom.

Now, the Kings will find out whether they're really a better team without their cornerstone, and the Philadelphia 76ers will learn whether another superstar can thrive alongside Allen Iver-

The Kings dealt Webber to the Sixers late Wednesday night in a six-player deal that dramatically reshaped both clubs on the eve of the trade deadline.

Philadelphia got Webber, one of the NBA's elite power forwards and a five-time All-Star, along with reserve forwards Matt Barnes and Michael Bradley. The Sixers gave up relatively little in return, sending veteran forwards Corliss Williamson, Kenny Thomas and Brian Skinner to the Kings.

Webber's departure from Sacramento has been discussed nearly since the moment Geoff Petric acquired him from Washington before the 1999 season. The Kings president of basketal poerations rebuilt the small-market Kings around Webber, transforing the franchise from a perennial loser to a club with six straight winning seasons and two division titles.

"He has been an instrumental part of ushering in an era of basketball here in Sacramento that most of the world at that time did not believe could happen," Petrie said late Wednesday night.

"I don't think myself or anyone in this organization could thank him enough."

Petrie was typically vague about his reasons for the deal, citing only "flexibility and versatility," but Webber is due to make \$52 million over the next three seasons — and Petrie clearly is among the NBA observers who believe Sacramento's up-tempo passing offense will be even better without Webber in the middle. Peja Stojakovic, Brad Miller

and Mike Bibby all thrived last season while Webber recovered from knee surgery — but all three stars regressed when Webber returned. Though both Webber and Stojaković denied rumors of a rift between Sacramento's stars, Stojaković demanded a trade from the Kings last summer.





And though Webber had the best years of his career in Sacramento, the forward with the megawatt smile and larger-than-live personality always longed for a bigger stage — even after the Kings re-signed him to a seven-year deal worth approximately \$127 million in 2001.

In Philadelphia, Webber will get the national attention he always craved — and Iverson will get some of the help he has always wanted. "The message that we're sending is that we went out and got a player who's averaging 21 and 10 to go along with our young players," Sixers president Billy King said. "I think the way we play, it allows some of our younger guy to develop even more because you've got a big guy now that can really make passes and shoot the

jump shot."
The 76ers host the Kings on Saturday, and Philadelphia will play in Sacramento on March 28.

The Sixers are 26-27 and just a

half-game behind Boston for first place in the Atlantic Division, while the Kings have the NBA's seventh-best record at 34-20 heading out on a six-game road trip, their longest of the season. Iverson, the NBA's leading scor-

rveisin, tier has seating sorier, claimed he didn't ask to be traded if the Sixers didn't make any bold moves to contend in a weakened Eastern Conference this year — but the All-Star Game MVP believed the Sixers needed help to make a playoff push.



Vikings sending receiver Moss to Raiders

Page 35



Villanova topples fourth top 25 team of season with win over Boston College

Page 27



Ramstein girls, boys advance in European tournament

Page 33



SEE TRADE ON PAGE 30